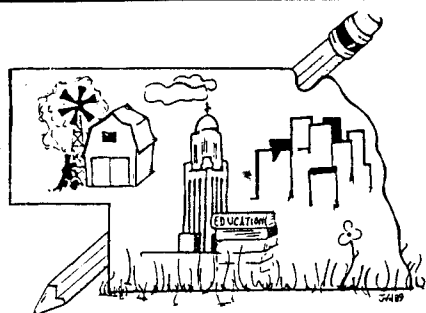
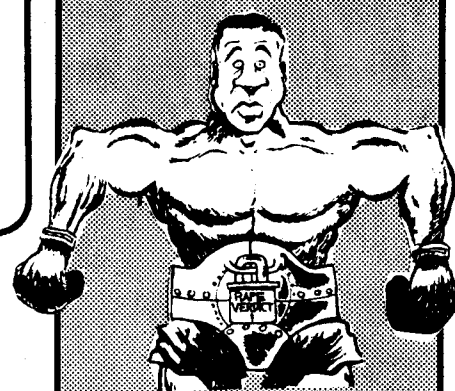


The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 6, No. 3, February 28, 1992



Observer Cartoons



Pullout, C-1-12

Being Sued in Alabama

Woodmen Under Scrutiny For Bias

by Frances Mendenhall

The Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society is primarily an insurance company. Most Omahans recognize it as owner of the Woodmen Tower, Omaha's tallest building at 30 stories, where it maintains its corporate headquarters. Many also remember that the radio and television stations WOW and WWT were named after Woodmen of the World.

The society began its life over a hundred years ago as a fraternal organization with ties to Masonry, open to white males only. Its purpose was to provide burial benefits for its members. Today, according to its literature, it has nearly a million members, more than \$24 billion of life insurance in force, and assets of nearly \$2.4 billion. According to *Forbes Magazine*, its annual revenue is over \$500 million, on which, as a nonprofit fraternal benefit society, it pays no income tax. It is the ninth largest nonprofit health and welfare insurance company in the United States.

The society is still organized around its local lodges, which reported conducting "nearly 200,000 fraternal, civic, and patriotic projects in 1990." It began to admit women and girls in 1957, and, according to President John G. Bookout, its constitution and by-laws now include nothing discriminatory about race or gender.

The company is currently under scrutiny for policies alleged to be racially exclusive.

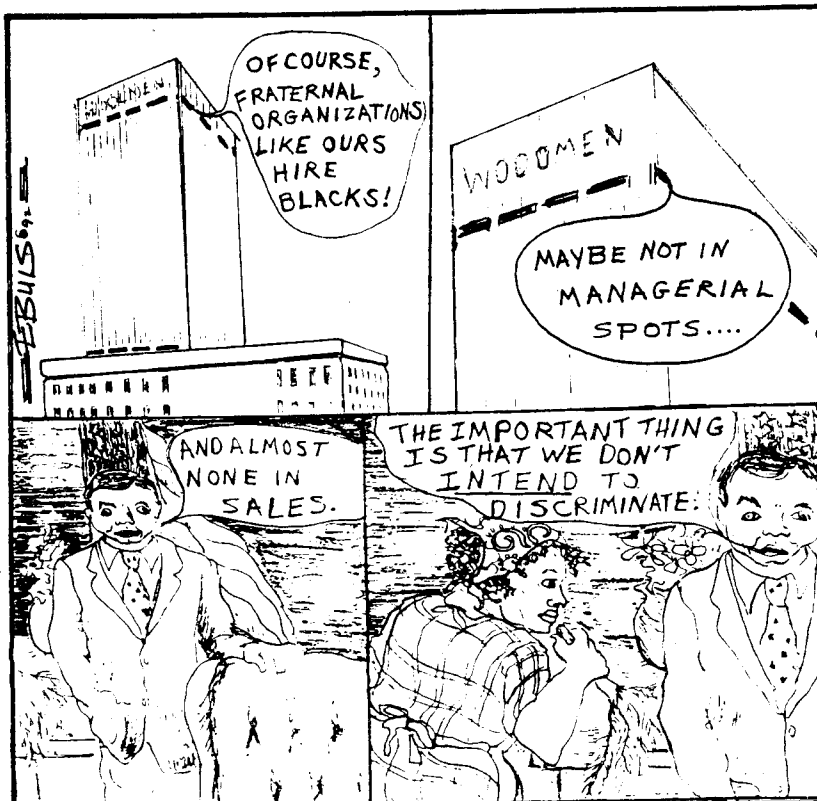
Of Woodmen's one million insured, approximately 62,000 are residents of Alabama. Its current president, John G. Bookout, is a 56-year-old former Montgomery, Alabama judge who has lived in Ne-

braska ten years and has served the company as its president since 1985.

A white former field representative for the company in Alabama, Billy Ray Williams, has filed suit against Woodmen, alleging that he was fired in 1989 because he violated a company policy of not selling life insurance to blacks. No reason was given in the letter terminating Williams' contract with Woodmen, and the company now says Williams was fired because he was a trouble-maker in the lodge. His previous production record, according to Bookout, had been good. Williams is being represented in a civil suit by attorneys for the Southern Poverty Law Center, headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama, the previous home of Woodmen President John Bookout.

The case will be tried by Federal District Court Judge U.W. Clemons, who presides in the Northern District of Alabama, Southern Division. Another suit, alleging that two blacks, Lee Roy Taylor and Wayne Parham, were not allowed to apply for field representative jobs with Woodmen because of race, has sought intervention in this trial in an apparent effort to get before the same court. Judge Clemons is

The Weird White Wisdom of the Woodmen...



black. Woodmen President Bookout said that company's contracts with field representatives require that venue for such proceedings be in Nebraska. In documents filed Jan. 3, 1992, by Woodmen, responding to Taylor and Parham's complaint, the company argued that venue should be in Nebraska, or "alternatively, venue...should be in the Eastern Division of the Northern District of Alabama, which is the division in which Plaintiff resides." The judge has ruled out Nebraska, but still to be determined are whether both suits will be heard by the same court, and if by the same court, whether at the same time. Both Taylor and Parham are from Alabama.

For Williams, the issue is the racially exclusive nature of fraternal organizations. Williams' complaint alleges that "black people have been systematically excluded from or denied information about fraternal activities, and have been denied the right to purchase Woodmen insurance..." But the right to purchase insurance is X to the right to get a job v. Woodmen; all employees must X insured. X

For Taylor and Parham, the X, X X

sue is Woodmen's responsibility as an employer not to exclude anyone from career opportunities.

Bookout insists that Williams doesn't have a case. In an interview in his 27th story office at Woodmen Tower, he showed this author letters and company phone call records of the communication related to the case; they contained nothing about racial discrimination, but actually dealt with how internal matters of the local lodge were being conducted. Bookout explained that the source later turned out to be relatives of Billy Ray Williams and the likely reason for the complaints a family squabble among Williams' relatives over the lodge matters in dispute. There were also complaints about sales leads

being steered away from Williams. Williams' wife is the cousin of the wife of Gene Blackmon, area manager for Woodmen at the time and Williams' supervisor. Blackmon also served as secretary of the local lodge. Williams' alleged call to Bookout, two days before he was fired, in fact never happened, he said, although Williams did talk to a lower level manager. The conversation, according to records of the company, had nothing to do with racial discrimination.

Now, two years later, "out of the blue" in the view of the company, Williams files a suit alleging racial discrimination. Bookout regrets that the company must suffer the expense and trouble of the lawsuit, but feels certain that none of Williams' allegations will hold up in court. He felt that the suit in other circumstances might have been settled with less expense, but in this case, since the plaintiff has an "activist organization" behind him (the Southern Poverty Law Center) a group Bookout considers to be "well financed by contributions" and who has an interest in gaining publicity for itself, that the case will surely end up in front of a jury. "We don't know how Billy Ray Williams was able to sell them (the Southern Poverty Law Center) on this," said Bookout.

The Observer asked Williams' attorney, Southern Poverty Law Center's Richard Cohen, why Williams waited two years before suing. Cohen said, "It is often difficult for people like Billy Ray Williams to foot the bill for a lawsuit against a powerful corporation like Woodmen. Lawyers often are not

Continued on page 4

Inside:

Nebraska Gets a Certified Nurse-Midwife.....3

Toxic Waste in South Omaha...8

Football in Finland..... 6

Errata

As every energy expert knows, electrical output is measured in megawatt-hours, not megawatts. In last month's Observer, I got my terms wrong. It should have said: "The wind electric potential in Nebraska, he says, is 99,200 megawatt-hours, the equivalent of one and a half-billion barrels of oil." Apologies to Michael Marvin who was misquoted.

Now, if anyone doubts that we need help proof reading around here, lay those doubts aside. Next time we need proof readers will be March 29, 30 and 31. Mark your calendars now, then call me a couple of days ahead of time. Even if you don't know kilowatt from kibbutzim.

— Frances Mendenhall

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Important Stuff From the Editor

by Frances Mendenhall

We hope you like the changes in the Observer. We enjoy bringing you cartoons you won't find in other Nebraska newspapers. We also are happy to have new contributing columnists Steve Stone, who looks at sports from a different perspective, and Warrior Richardson, who keeps an eye on Cox Cable. This issue, we are beginning a page of television listings that are not your ordinary white bread offerings. See page 13. Alice Love is the editor of that page; she welcomes ideas.

We would like to broaden the audience of this little newspaper. If you know someone who needs to know we're here, share your copy (it costs \$.75 to mail an Observer first class), or let us know and we'll get them a sample.

We are also putting counter-top posters in friendly places of business to recruit new readers. There is a picture of one on page 9. If you can make room for such a thing in your place of work, contact Marylyn Felion, 402-551-5834.

Two readers made special contributions to our efforts this month.

Win Peterson gave me the lead on the story on the front page. She did it in a way that was particularly helpful, that is, she provided me with an article about the Southern Poverty Law Center's suit against Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Company. I wish I had \$5 for every time somebody says to me, "you ought to investigate such-and-such," but fails to provide me with anything useful to get an investigation going. I appreciate all story ideas, don't get me wrong. It's just that a document or some kind of lead sure is nice.

Kappie Weber also wrote a note that was especially welcome.

Dear Frances Mendenhall,

Am writing to tell you how much I appreciate your article "Why Call Ollie North a Hero?" This man is an example of a mediocre human being given unsupervised power and as a result believing he had the right to use

this power as he saw fit. His so-called superiors must have been delighted that they had a yes-man, a bus-boy who would do what they themselves would not do. Poor Ollie was and is a scapegoat and he doesn't even realize it. He is an egotist and a good share of the public perpetuates the image of "God" that he has of himself.

North is a liar, a criminal, and an egotist. I wish I had been there to join you January 23 in front of the Red Lion.

Thank you for being there (and the other two dozen) for those of us that were not there.

Sincerely,
Kappie Weber

For letters like that I'd stand in the freezing cold again. Thank you, Kappie.

Now, about letters. I print just about all that we get. They don't have to be nice like Kappie's either. In fact, in other publications, I prefer to see variety and spice. Occasionally hostility is ok, as long as it is well written. If you have something to say on these pages, write us a letter.

The May Observer will come out May 21, about three weeks late. I will still be able to get twelve issues out in 1992 if I bunch the rest of them up a little. The schedule alteration is needed because I plan to be involved in the May primary. More on that later.

A
JOHN DOE
212 MAIN STREET
OURTOWN, NE 68999

92/04

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The next Observer will be published April 1.
Please have story ideas in by March 20.
Copy is due by March 28.
Following that the Observer will be published again May 21.

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No Savings Passed on to Patients

Midwife Gives Moms, Babies Special Attention



Eric Francis, the Gateway

by Frances Mendenhall

In many Nebraska hospital birthing rooms the harsh-light-and-cold-steel ambience has been replaced by home-like atmospheres. But there was no choice about who would deliver the baby -- a physician, or where -- in a hospital. Other alternatives for expectant parents in Nebraska were non-existent, except for the occasional story that would surface about a lay midwife delivering a baby at home. Families also had to face the associated costs of such deliveries.

Last September, the University of Nebraska Medical Center added a new person to their ob-gyn team, certified nurse-midwife Montie Shellenberger. Shellenberger, who graduated from nursing school in 1967, has been involved in obstetrics as long as she has been a nurse. Since receiving her nursing degree, however, she has twice returned to school to earn degrees first as a nurse practitioner, and then as a certified nurse-midwife (CNM). As a registered nurse, she is licensed by the State of Nebraska. She is certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives. According to her press release, "to practice as a certified nurse-midwife in Nebraska, Mrs. Shellenberger was required to receive approval from the State Board of Nursing and the State Board of Medicine and Surgery."

Shellenberger moved to Nebraska from Tennessee with her family last summer. Needing a job, she went through the yellow pages and sent out resumes. "I kind of created the position," she said. She found interest and support for the idea of practicing midwifery at the Med Center. Dr. Carl Smith, medical director of labor and delivery at UNMC, has been particularly supportive, she said.

Although Shellenberger does not manage newborn care, she does perform other func-

tions normally assigned to CNMs, prenatal care, labor and delivery management, postpartum care, and well-woman gynecology.

Shellenberger delivers babies only in the hospital setting, unlike some other CNMs, and only with a physician in the building. The care she gives, however, is more personalized than that of most physicians, because due to her lighter case load she is able to stay with the patient throughout labor. The care is also family-centered. Husbands and children can be at the birth.

Another advantage is continuity. "Patients know they will always see me for prenatal care," she said, which might encourage teenagers to come earlier. And with earlier care, problems that could lead to the pregnancy becoming high-risk can be more easily corrected. But even if the patient becomes high-risk and needs to start seeing a physician, Shellenberger also continues to see her.

The bill for prenatal care and a normal birth with Shellenberger is the same as with a physician. "In Tennessee we set it up the same way because we don't want to imply that it's second rate care," she said. Shellenberger's salary, she says, is not even in the same ballpark as a physician's.

Another birthing option in Omaha is Family Med, a family practice in Northwest Omaha which has a birthing center for its own patients. It is Omaha's only non-hospital birthing option. There, physicians manage births, in a home-like setting but with no cost savings.

In Sioux Center, Iowa, CNM Belinda Lassen works at a clinic with five family physicians. There, she has hospital privileges and delivers babies in a birthing room at a hospital. The presence of a physician is not required, although she can always call one. Lassen manages the care of both new-

born and mother at first. Later a physician cares for the baby and Lassen continues with the care of the mother. For a birth they charge the same as a physician.

* * * * *

Nationwide, however, CNMs are more cost effective than physicians for births.

Expectant parents in Des Moines, Iowa, until last December, could choose to deliver at the Des Moines BirthPlace, a free-standing birthing center staffed by two CNMs. There the cost was significantly lower than a delivery by a physician. The BirthPlace, according to its former administrator Jean Douglas-Smith, "looked like a two-bedroom apartment," which also had exam rooms and other trappings of an obstetric setting.

The center was set up eight years ago. Douglas-Smith recalls the beginning of the center and how it was able to keep cost-containment in the formula. "Often a group (of physicians) hires a CNM and charges what they charge whether the CNM delivers or the doc," she said. "When CNMs have their own practice you will see cost containment. We just did it."

Last December, the BirthPlace closed its doors, not because it wasn't charging enough to make ends meet, but because of lack of physician support. "The medical community here was never supportive," said Douglas-Smith. Unlike in Sioux Center, no Des Moines hospital extended privileges to a CNM. Therefore, if the CNM thought it appropriate to switch to a hospital setting -- even when the reason was not because of a greater risk factor -- she would then have to turn the patient care over to the backup physician. The project was down to one physician after starting out with five in the beginning. That one physician was just unable to carry the load alone and the BirthPlace closed its doors.

Medicaid pays for CNM deliveries, as does CHAMPUS (the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services). Where charges are the same as for a physician delivery, Medicaid pays according to its physician fee schedule. But where charges are lower, Medicaid pays according to a fee schedule determined for CNMs. Nationwide, Medicaid reimburses CNMs at 60 percent the rate of physicians. In Des Moines, the BirthPlace charged Medicaid less than a physician's charge, about \$1456 for the full package of prenatal, delivery and postpartum care, according to the Des Moines Register. The BirthPlace's normal charges in 1989, according to Douglas-Smith, were \$1975 for complete maternity care, compared to around \$3,000 for a physician in a hospital. By 1991 the fees had risen to \$2800 at the BirthPlace, and around \$4,000 to \$4,500 for a physician plus hospital.

Douglas-Smith thought it possible that the center might open again if it could get the right combination of people together to make the project go.

Ideally, midwifery offers not only more

Quality Care,
Better Outcomes

What sort of care do certified nurse-midwives deliver?

The Office of Technology Assessment had this to say:

The weight of the evidence indicates that, within their areas of competence,...CNMs provide care whose quality is equivalent to that of care provided by physician. Moreover,...CNMs are more adept than physicians at providing services that depend on communication with patients and preventive actions...Patients are generally satisfied with the quality of care provided by...CNMs, particularly with the interpersonal aspects of care...

Historically,...CNMs have been credited with improving the geographic distribution of care, because many of them have been willing to locate in underserved rural and inner-city areas...These practitioners will continue to play valuable roles in underserved areas.

...CNMs increase access to primary care in a wide variety of nongeographic settings and for populations not adequately served by physicians....CNMs provide effective and low-cost maternity care to underserved, socioeconomically high-risk pregnant women and adolescents...CNMs have also improved access by adding to the scope of primary-care services available to patients....Using CNMs rather than physicians to provide certain services would appear to be cost-effective from a societal perspective.

Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants, and Certified Nurse-Midwives: A Policy Analysis. Cited in a fact sheet from the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Jean Douglas-Smith described birth at the BirthPlace as "more like a wedding and less like a gall-bladder operation."

The United States, with fewer than 5 percent of babies born outside hospitals, has an infant mortality rate that is among the highest in the industrialized world 10.1 per thousand. In Japan, where a midwife is the primary attendant at most births, the figure is five per thousand. In Holland, where 40 percent of births take place at home it's 7.6 per thousand.

A number of studies have linked lower infant mortality with prenatal care by a CNM, especially for young or socioeconomically disadvantaged mothers. Also lowered were the incidence of low birthweight, and prematurity.

Continued on page 11

Like Proposing More Toilets as a Solution to Epidemic of Diarrhea

Building More Prisons Has Not Lowered Crime

EDITOR'S NOTE: Like a surgeon general who prescribes building more commodes as a solution to an epidemic of diarrhea, President Bush proposes to solve the nation's epidemic of violence by building more prisons. The result will be both more crime and more prisons.

PNS associate editor Michael Kroll writes widely on issues of criminal justice. He is executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Death Penalty Information Center.

by Michael Kroll, Pacific News Service

"The fastest growing occupational group in the public sector is prison guards." Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1990

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a January speech to the California District Attorneys Association, Attorney General William Barr, the nation's chief law enforcement officer, succinctly expressed the administration's prescription for the epidemic of violence the country faces: "The choice is simple," he told the prosecutors. "More crime or more prisons."

If we required truth in packaging of political slogans, the attorney general would have described the "more crime or more prisons" alternative not as a simple choice but as a simple minded one.

Two weeks later, President Bush himself weighed in with his State of the Union message. "...It is time for a major, renewed investment in fighting violent street crime," he thundered. "Congress, pass my comprehensive crime bill!" The budget he proposed the next day included a \$1 billion increase in Attorney General Barr's Justice Department allocation over last year, \$353 million of which is to finance more prison space.

More prisons or more crime? From 1980 to 1990, the number of prisoners in local jails and state and federal prisons has more than doubled until today, with over 1,115,000 million Americans behind bars, we outdistance every country on earth for the sheer size of our prison population.

Has this brought the promised reduction in crime? Hardly.

According to the Uniform Crime Reports provided by the FBI, the number of robbery offenses grew by eight percent between 1981 and 1990. There were 24 percent more forcible rapes over the same period. Incidents of aggravated assault grew by 59 percent.

Rather than a choice between more prisons or more crime, government policies have given us both more prisons and more crime. Does anyone doubt the relationship between the growing rate of unemployment, officially seven percent and rising, and crime? Can anyone deny that homelessness and crime are both symptoms of the same social rot? Is there no relationship between our failing schools and crime? But our government has no money to train the unemployed, no money for rent subsidies or low cost housing, no money to ensure smaller classroom size or better paid teachers. Our government has money for more prisons. And more. And more.

In the President's budget, more than \$100 million will be taken from public libraries. A staggering \$800 billion will be slashed from the current \$1.5 billion available to build low-income housing and provide rent subsidies to the poor. The \$432 million in Health and Human Services community block grants now earmarked for extinction could be funded with the money the President wants for more prison space.

In fact, it is not far-fetched to view the growing prison budget as our one remaining public commitment to health and human services for the poor — in effect, our new welfare system. In prison, the homeless get housed, the hungry are fed and the sick are treated. But prisons are not proposed as

the solution to these problems, but as the solution to crime. More prisons or more crime.

When William Barr's predecessor, former attorney general Dick Thornburgh, announced an earlier version of the same prison expansion solution, he asserted that the American people are not interested in finding the causes of crime. "We are not here to search for the roots of crime or to discuss sociological theory," Thornburgh told an audience of law enforcement officials in Washington last March. "The American people demand action to stop criminal violence whatever its causes." The public wants relief, and relief is spelled P-R-I-S-O-N.

If the country were in the tenth year of a devastating

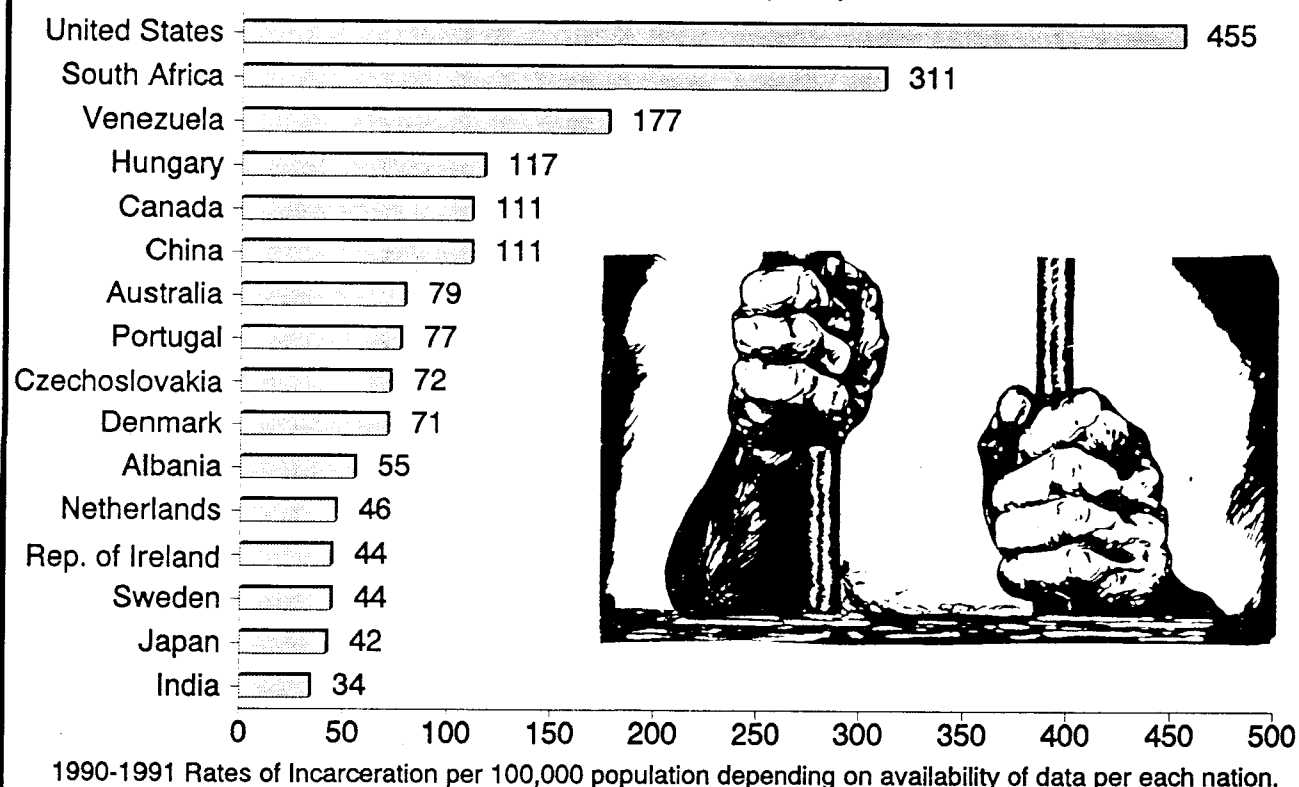
epidemic of diarrhea, how would we assess the surgeon general who, year after year, proposed to build more commodes as a solution to the problem while ignoring the causes of the epidemic? One can imagine a future with a full commode on every corner. Because the virus goes unaddressed, there can never be enough commodes.

That is the situation we now face — or, more accurately, refuse to face — with regard to crime and its solutions. As long as our "solutions" go to the effects of social decay and dislocation while contributing to their causes, we are like a society mired in commodes. And, like our political leadership, they will always be full.

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Incarceration Rates for Selected Countries

Source: The Sentencing Project



Woodmen

Continued from page 1

in the position to take up these kinds of causes."

What of Taylor and Parham's allegations? Bookout believes his company has done nothing wrong in this matter either. "You cannot go to an office when no one is there, or go and refuse to give your name and say you were discriminated against," said Bookout. Taylor and Parham, however, allege that they tried to get office workers in Woodmen's office to take their names, and to leave a message for the person who made the hiring decision, but were repeatedly stonewalled (see article, page 5). A white person was later hired for the position that Taylor and Parham had sought.

Bookout says the company's record of EEOC complaints compares favorably to that of any other company.

Taylor and Parham's suit is being handled by private attorneys.

Bookout admits that there have been no blacks on Woodmen's board or upper management, and few blacks among Woodmen's insured. "You're not going to have large numbers in a fraternal organization because you work out of the lodge and recommendations come from families," he said. Bookout also recalled being told by agents in Anniston,

Ga., Billy Ray Williams' area, that there were about 70 black policy holders. Furthermore, there are blacks employed by the company, and there is now one full-time field representative (out of 790), a black woman in Virginia, he said. Bookout referred the Observer's question about exact numbers of blacks employed at the Omaha office to Nancy Potts of personnel.

Nancy Potts, assistant personnel manager, told the Observer that she was uncertain about the number of blacks employed at Woodmen's home office. "We don't keep track of how many blacks. I couldn't even make a very good guess," she said. "We've always aggressively sought minorities." When the Observer called the Urban League to see whether Woodmen regularly made contact with them, we were told that the first time it had happened in recent memory was the day of our interview with Bookout.

Bookout also says he remembers seeing black faces at district or state meetings. In a group of 200 there might be four or five. "We have a lot of minorities (among members)," Bookout said. "Asians and Hispanics. But we have not had a lot of black field representatives."

continued on following page

Lessons Learned From Bellevue's Public Access

Cox
Watch

by
Warrior
Richardson



On February 7 I conducted a telephone interview with Toby Asplin the access coordinator of the Bellevue, Nebraska access channel. The Bellevue access channel is managed by the city of Bellevue and Mr. Asplin is a city employee. Bellevue has one channel that serves public access, educational access, and government access. It is overseen by an eleven member Bellevue Community Programming Advisory Board (BCPAB) who are appointed by the mayor. United Artists is the Cable company operating in Bellevue. One percent of the subscriber fee is used to finance the access

channel.

The following is a comparison between the way public access is operated in Bellevue and the way it is done here in Omaha under Cox's management.

Unlike here in Omaha where copying from 1/2" to 3/4" videotape and vice versa is prohibited, in Bellevue access users are encouraged to do so at no fee. In fact, they are provided a VCR in the studio and are taught how to use it and given time to make the copies.

Bellevue does not have live telecast capabilities but plan to have them soon, subject to the approval of United Artists. The BCPAB encourages live telecast. Compare this to Omaha where Cox has the ability but not the willingness to allow live telecasts.

In Bellevue, as in Omaha, the right to preview all shows is reserved. Be clear, however, that previewing does not mean censorship. Previewing is done because the channel has an agreement with the Federal Communication Commission to avoid obscenity, nudity and commercials.

Bellevue access does require that 50 percent of each individual show be locally produced. Contrast that with Omaha where

each show is required to be 100 percent locally produced.

Unlike Omaha where Cox prohibits the use of computers in the studio, Bellevue has a computer in the studio, although it is on loan to them. They plan to purchase one in the future. They also assist in the use of the computer.

Similar to Cox, Bellevue does have a time constraint; however, the time constraint is in place to prevent inexperienced users from consuming inordinate amounts of time due to lack of organization. If someone wants to do something more sophisticated than the norm they are allowed more time. Here in Omaha, sophisticated users have to fight for more time.

In July of 1991 a move to shut down the Bellevue public access system was initiated. November of 1991 it was decided to keep it but review what should be done in August 1992. Hopefully, public access in Bellevue will be around for a long time.

On February 5 during an interview I conducted with Michael Kohler, Communications Manager of Cox Cable, he told me that the previous day at a subcommittee meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Committee

(CTAC) someone reminded the CTAC of a commitment it made in 1988 to investigate the possibility of taking the management of the public access system out of the hands of Cox. This is an interesting development.

As long as Cox manages the public access system I expect nothing but gross inadequacies. Anyone who tries to do anything more sophisticated than your stereotypical public access vanity show where people stand in front of the camera and say "Look at me! Look at me!" for half an hour are harrassed. However, simply because the public access system is taken out of the hands of Cox does not necessarily assure a better system; although, leaving it in the hands of Cox does assure an inadequate one. It is possible, although hard to conceive of, that someone could take over the public access system and do as bad or worst job than Cox, but only by taking it out of the hands of Cox can the system be improved.

There are two basic alternative arrangements: have the city manage the public access system as in Bellevue or start a nonprofit organization to run it as in Chicago. The National Federation of Local Cable Programmers (NFLCP) has a set of sample contracts drawn between independent access centers and companies from around the country. This information is readily available to anyone who wants it. It would be instructive to review the various arrangements made in numerous cities throughout the country as Omaha contemplates an appropriate one.

On February 10 Richard Hudlin and I attended another CTAC meeting. Michael Kohler finally admitted the obvious: He can think of no reason to prohibit Mr Hudlin from copying from 1/2" to 3/4" videotape and vice versa. Also, the minutes from the January 13 CTAC states, "Mike Kohler stated that Cox is going to install VHS machines at the hub sites; Cox has not received the equipment yet." In spite of this, during the February 10 CTAC meeting Mike Kohler said Cox will not install VHS machines. The CTAC was perfectly content with this 180 degree turn around. Mr. Kohler reneged on his promise and the CTAC didn't care. However, Cox will make one copy of each show at no charge. Public access users no longer have to pay \$7.50. Mr. Hudlin raised several other important points, all of which were referred to the CTAC's public access subcommittee even though the public access subcommittee chairman, John Pierce, has never contacted Mr. Hudlin concerning his complaints despite his promise to do so. I urge you, if you want to see stalling at its best, come to a CTAC meeting.

On February 12 1992 the Midwest Regional Board of Directors of the NFLCP granted provisional status to the Nebraska chapter of the NFLCP. I am the chairperson of this chapter. We will meet at the W. Dale Clark library Saturday, March 21 at 12:00 noon. For more information call me at (402) 457-5026. Also, don't miss the NFLCP show on Cox Cable Channel 23.

Finnish Football Surprisingly Good ...but the Cheerleaders Rate Tops

by Steve Stone

he is a regular contributor to the Observer and teaches journalism at Iowa Western Community College.

The unimaginable has happened, a revolution possibly comparable to the overthrow of Communism, the defeat of the Mongol

Empire, and the fall of Rome. American football has come to Europe. In Finland it used to be that when I told people that I hailed from Nebraska they would politely inquire, "Is Nebraska anywhere near New York?" Now they smile cunningly and say, "Ah, the Cornhuskers!" During my August '91 visit to that northernmost republic, my brother-in-law Kalevi who lives in a west-coast city named Rauma asked if I would explain some of the rules of American football to him. Knowing that I had most of the afternoon free, I responded in the affirmative. Kalevi then proceeded to ask one question about the official who holds the down marker on the line of scrimmage and another about the duties of the field judge, each of which took about fifteen seconds to answer in my somewhat rusty Finnish.

"Any more questions?" I inquired. "No, I understand everything else." I was about to mutter something like "In your dreams," under my breath but stopped.

Kalevi is a pretty savvy guy. Maybe he did understand everything else. On August 19, I attended the European Championships in American Football at the Helsinki Olympic Stadium (the mere thought of our football in their stadium seemed like sacrilege, or worse), and I found out why Kalevi understood ev-

erything else. The Finnish national team was playing the national team of Great Britain for the championship. Both teams were being coached by National Football League functionaries.

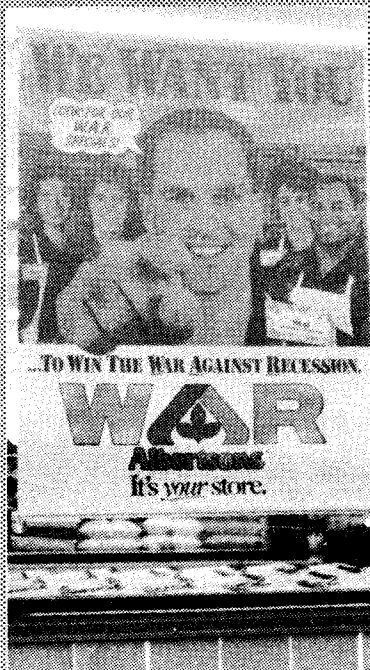
Ultimately Great Britain won by something like 24-14. The story lies not the game's outcome but in that more than 10,000 Finns paid \$25 apiece to sit to a drizzle to watch a sporting contest that in 1961 would not have drawn flies — literally. Then it was impossible to get even the most fanatic Finnish sports fan to watch a five-minute American football film at the point of a gun. I know. During the time I lived in Finland from 1956 to 1966, I tried to get even a flicker of interest in American football from ANYONE. And failed. The 10,000 who paid their hard-earned Finnmarks to watch the game were quite knowledgeable about the game. To assure this, the public address announcer went over the rules in detail before the game and explained particular points as situations arose during the game. It seemed to me, however, that his efforts, however well intentioned, were largely redundant. The Finns know their football. I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the play on the field. In general it seemed comparable to good California junior-college football, which is no small compliment considering that the game is so new in Europe and that the 20-22 year-old players had probably never seen a football before they were 15 or so. Some Finns apologetically remarked that their team was not nearly so good as, say, the Dallas Cowboys. I assured them that neither

were the Nebraska Cornhuskers. The Helsinki Olympic Stadium, scene of Bob Mathias's decathlon triumph and Harrison Dillard's hurdles victory in 1952, was undergoing renovation on the north end under the supervision of my old friend stadium manager Jorma Lindell, but the transformation that had taken place on the playing field was more radical and possibly more lasting than the physical changes. Yankee football in the old country? Sounds like an oxymorona self-canceling term — such as "military intelligence." But there it was — in the flesh, so to speak. There can be no doubt that the quality of their football will dramatically improve as greater numbers of young Finns begin playing and as young Finns get into the equivalent of the Pop Warner leagues and Little Leagues. One day in the not-too-distant future, no doubt, the quality of their American football is going to be first-rate. One day — but not yet.

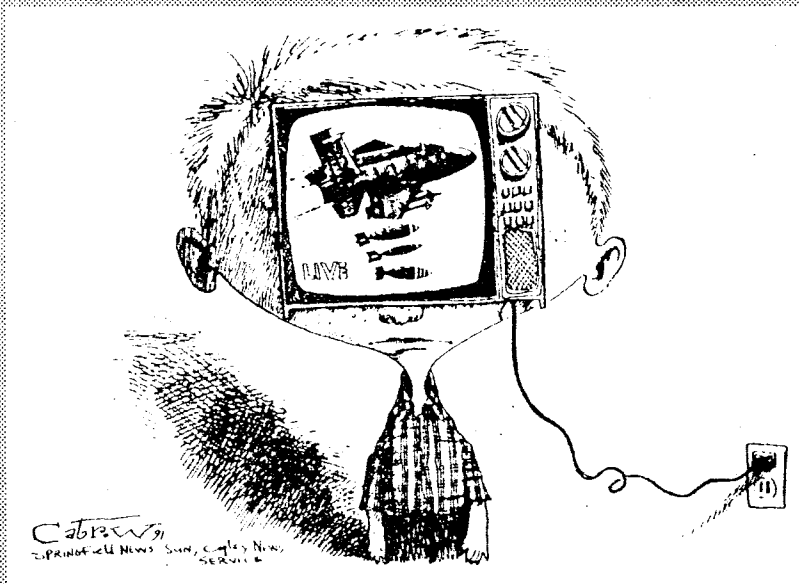
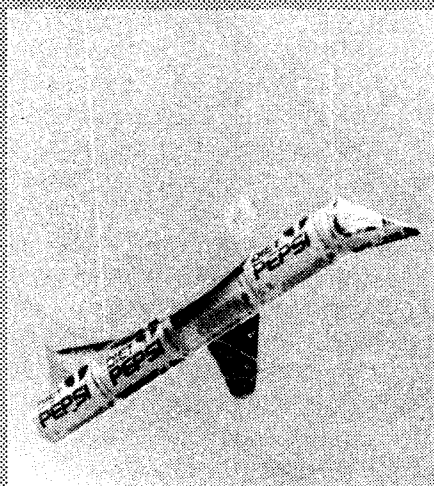
But in one respect, the Finns are ready for the big time — that is, the major-league all-continent big time, that is. Can you say "cheerleaders," children? If you can imagine fifty tall, slim blonde cheerleaders dressed in sky-blue and white (Finnish national colors), every one of them the picture of radiant youth and health, every one looking like a candidate the Miss Europe contest, then you have a faint idea of how completely the Finnish version of American football wipes out its "Go Big Red" counterpart.

It's not even a contest. The Dallas Cowboys should be so lucky.

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Photos by Joyce Roper

Excerpts From Two Suits Against Woodmen

Williams' Story

The following is taken from the complaint of Billy Ray Williams filed in his suit against Woodmen.

When plaintiff (Williams) was hired by defendant, Holbrook and Blackmon expressly told him that Woodmen did not sell insurance to black persons. On several other occasions during plaintiff's employment with Woodmen, agents, employees, and officers of defendant acknowledged that Woodmen operates under such a rule.

Plaintiff was told by Holbrook and Blackmon that if he was approached by a black person interested in buying insurance, he should try to do no more than give the prospective customer his name and that, in any event, he should not complete an insurance application form for the black person.

Plaintiff was informed that if he or any other sales agent did sell insurance to a black person, that person would not be invited to lodge meetings or other fraternal activities. Defendant tries to ensure that known black policyholders are not invited to participate in meetings and lodge activities by having area managers and agents cull the names of such individuals from the mailing labels provided to each lodge by the home office in Omaha, Nebraska.

During the course of his employment with Woodmen, plaintiff sold life insurance policies to at least seven blacks, four of whom were children. Holbrook and Blackmon were sharply critical of his actions.

When plaintiff insisted on the right of the black children to attend the summer campsponsored by Woodmen, Holbrook stated that, if plaintiff brought the children to the camp, they would have to stay in a separate area from the rest of the 200 or so youth invited to attend. Thus, the black child policyholders were deprived of a contractual benefit and a right accorded all white child policyholders.

Plaintiff complained about the policy of prohibiting field representatives from selling insurance to black people and about the policy of prohibiting black policyholders from fully enjoying the benefits of their membership in Woodmen. His complaints were consistently ignored by Holbrook and Blackmon, both of whom expressly sanc-

tioned the discriminatory policy and practices of defendant Woodmen.

On or about November 9, 1989, after a fruitless discussion with Blackmon regarding the racially discriminatory policies followed by Woodmen, plaintiff telephoned president Bookout to complain about the situation. Plaintiff told Bookout that he had written policies on some black children and adults, and that Woodmen area and state managers had objected to his taking the black children to the youth camp. Plaintiff told Bookout that the company's racially discriminatory policy was wrong and that it should be changed. He also stated that he had repeatedly attempted to reach some agreement with managers Holbrook and Blackmon on the issue, but that they were unwilling to change their practices or policies. President Bookout told plaintiff not to worry about the situation and that he would "take care of" it.

On November 10, 1989, the day following plaintiff's conversation with Bookout, Holbrook terminated plaintiff's employment contract. The termination letter gave no reason for plaintiff's discharge.

Taylor's story

The following is from the Complaint in Intervention of Lee Roy Taylor and Wayne Parham, which seeks to have their suit against Woodmen presented before the same court as that of Billy Ray Williams.

Beginning in the fall of 1991, Taylor sought on several different occasions to apply for a field representative position with Woodmen. On each occasion, Taylor went to Woodmen's Tuscaloosa County Regional Office and requested an application to obtain a field representative contract. On his first attempt to apply a Woodmen employee told Taylor that he must apply in person to the Regional Manager, Cary Bryant, but that Bryant was not available at that time. Said Woodmen employee did not ask Taylor for his name, address or telephone number, nor would she schedule an appointment for him to see the Regional Manager. On another occasion soon thereafter, Taylor again went to the Woodmen office in Tuscaloosa and spoke with a different Woodmen employee. On that occasion said employee refused to take Taylor's name or other information and advised him that there was no available time for him to see Cary Bryant to apply for the position. On Taylor's third attempt to apply, Plaintiff went to Woodmen's Tuscaloosa Office and there were three automobiles

parked in front of said office. Taylor had observed these same vehicles on his earlier visits. The door to the building was locked and Woodmen employees refused to open the doors when Taylor knocked. Taylor believes Woodmen employees were present in the building on said occasion. In late December, 1991, Taylor once more returned to Woodmen's Tuscaloosa Office for the purpose of applying for the position. Again a Woodmen employee told Taylor he must apply to Cary Bryant, but no one in the office knew when he would return. Again the employee refused to allow Taylor to give his name and address nor would he give Taylor an application. Said employee was overtly uncooperative. On or about January 3, 1992, Taylor again went to the Woodmen Tuscaloosa Office and was refused entry. On or about January 8, 1992, Taylor returned to the Tuscaloosa Office of Woodmen where he met a young, white male field representative. This Woodmen employee told Taylor that Woodmen had recently hired him and had hired two new field representatives. The field representative with whom Taylor spoke had not yet received an "insurance license" and upon Taylor's information and belief had been hired after Taylor had made his first attempt to apply for employment. This Woodmen employee was obviously uncomfortable talking to Taylor and refused to schedule an appointment for Taylor to meet with Cary Bryant. When Taylor requested that the employee take his name and address, he was told that there was no paper or pen in the office. On several occasions, Taylor telephoned the Tuscaloosa Regional Office and requested an appointment or to be told when he could speak to or meet with Cary Bryant. Each time defendant refused to do so.

Taylor avers that he is well-qualified to serve as a field representative and that he was licensed and worked as a full-time life insurance agent from 1977 until 1983. Taylor wanted to work for Woodmen as a field representative.

Parham's story

In August, 1991, Plaintiff in Intervention, Parham, attempted to file for a position as a full-time field representative with Woodmen. Parham wrote Woodmen and informed it of his interest in a full-time field representative position. He first attempted to meet with George Findley, who was the Area Manager at the time. Parham scheduled two appointments with Findley, but Findley failed to

attend the scheduled meetings. During August, 1991, on the third scheduled appointment, Parham and Findley met, at which time Parham requested to be given the written (L.T.M.R.A.) test that Woodmen requires as a prerequisite for obtaining a full-time field representative position. Findley refused to allow Parham to take the test. At this meeting, when Findley learned that Parham was black, Findley told Parham that he was retiring and therefore would not take applications for the field representative position. Findley was uncooperative and discouraged Parham, although he did admit that a position was open and that a full-time field representative would be contracted in that area to replace former representative, Frank Kight. Parham was told that Findley's replacement would take his application after he assumed the Area Manager's position on January 1, 1992. In November, 1991, Findley's replacement, Raymond "PeeWee" Davidson, called Parham and told him he (Davidson) would contact Parham about his application after returning from manager training sessions in Omaha, Nebraska. Davidson gave Parham a number at which he could be reached, but the number was not a valid number. Parham contacted the Woodmen office to attempt to schedule a meeting, but was unable to do so. During the period of time when Parham sought a position as a full-time field representative in the Clarke County, Alabama, area and was told applications were not being taken, Woodmen entered into a full-time field representative contract with a white man to sell its products in the Clarke County, Alabama, area. This new field agent assumed his position with Woodmen in approximately late October or early November, 1991. The new white agent was not a former Woodmen insured despite the fact that Woodmen requires all of its field representatives to be Woodmen insureds. Parham was insured by Woodmen when he sought a field representative position with them.

Parham is well-qualified to serve as a field representative. He has a college degree and has many contacts in his community. He wanted to work for Woodmen as a field representative.

Woodmen

Bookout's memory is however in some contrast with photos in the February, 1992 company magazine. The magazine prints photos of activities of local lodges. There were twenty pages devoted to such photos. Of the people in the photos named and identified as members, 364 were white and five were Hispanic. No blacks or Asians in the photos were named and identified as

members. There were four black children in one photo of a Christmas party, but they were not identified either as members, children of members, or guests at a party. Lodges frequently hold events for entire scout troops or grade school classes and black faces do appear in these pictures.

The Observer asked Bookout whether he had ever attended a segregated school (he

had, as most public schools were segregated during his childhood), and whether he had ever been a member of a segregated country club (he had not because he couldn't afford to join country clubs). Bookout serves on boards of the United Way, the Salvation Army, Methodist Hospital, the Community Playhouse, Methodist Hospital, and the Chamber of Commerce. He is a former Coun-

cillor of Ak-Sar-Ben.

As for the future of affirmative action at Woodmen, Bookout says that the company is now aggressively trying to hire blacks. The change, he says, is not the result of the two lawsuits, but because of changes in the 1991 Civil Rights Act, which requires more than just the absence of demonstrated policies of discrimination.

continued from previous page

'Public Comments, Open Meetings Circumvented'

NATS Create Buzz Over Neighborhood Toxic Site

by Mike Ryan

The author is the environmental representative on the Department of Environmental Control's Regional Hazardous Waste Siting Committee, and a founding member of Neighbors Against Toxic Substances, NATS.

Three hundred sixty citizens gathered at St. Bridget's gymnasium in South Omaha on the evening of Feb. 19, 1992, because they are angry and fear for their lives. They are afraid that their health and environment already have been damaged by toxic chemical operations in the area.

Collectively they form a group, Neighbors Against Toxic Substances, NATS. They contend that a Van Waters and Rogers (VWR) 80,000-square-foot chemical distribution warehouse, office and tank farm at 3002 F St. is improperly located within an urban area.

They are concerned about what would happen if there were an accident or if lightning were to strike an outside tank. Either could cause an explosion and subsequent fire, and could spread a toxic plume over a large portion of the Omaha metropolitan area.

Van Waters and Rogers

Van Waters and Rogers has an inventory of more than 216 different hazardous chemicals stored in its warehouse and tank farm. There may be anywhere from just a couple of barrels to 500 tons of any one given chemical. Neighbors insist that the contents of the warehouse and tank farm, built in 1989, were unknown to them until recently.

Van Waters and Rogers also owns an open air waste storage operation located at 39th and D Streets. Last summer VWR notified the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control (DEC) that it intended to file for a permit to store hazardous wastes. The permit request asked to move VWR's current open air operation to a pole barn-like structure to be built on the northeast corner of the 3002 F St. property.

As required by state law, a Site Review Committee was formed by DEC. A facilitator and six members including this author were appointed by DEC. Six other members were appointed by the mayor of Omaha.

A majority of the committee members recommended the site. One other member, Toni Wasikowski, and I wrote a minority summary in objection.

Following the last public meeting on Dec. 12, 1991, eight neighbors who live near the VWR site came to Toni and me and said they felt betrayed and frustrated by what turned out to be a rubber stamp committee. We discussed how nearly 400 people had opposed the permit of VWR's 39th and D Streets waste site at a DEC public hearing in 1988, and how nearly 1,500 people had signed petitions in opposition.

The ten of us were afraid that once again government was turning a deaf ear to the objections and concerns of the people and

would permit hazardous waste storage at the F Street site. We ten were the first NATS.

During the next four weeks we had time to reflect on what had happened since the Site Review Committee was formed in July, 1991. We began to formulate questions based on the initial facts we had and growing out of our suspicions and general bad feeling about the whole process.

Issues and Concerns

We asked:

- Why were the questions, concerns and objections expressed by the public -- which the committee called "unresolved issues" -- "resolved" in most cases by only a statement from VWR, rather than through impartial testimony or independent fact finding?

- Why were a number of the public's key questions and concerns not included in the committee report?

- Why wasn't the public given adequate time to voice its questions and comments at committee meetings?

- Why were negative comments and questions stifled by some committee members and the facilitator?

- Why wasn't VWR "up front" about the extent of contamination and debris removal on the property at 4120 Buckingham (the southernmost portion of the 3002 F St. property which VWR sold in 1990 to UNIVAR, VWR's parent company)?

- Why, during the Oct. 23 tour by the committee of the D Street waste facility, was a short meeting held among committee members, DEC staff, and VWR personnel on how to minimize the issue of contamination at 4120 Buckingham? A committee member not present at this time was expected to raise the issue at the public hearing later that evening.

- Was the above short meeting prior to the public hearing a violation of the open meeting law? Why wasn't the short meeting noted in the committee report section that summarized the D Street tour?

- Why doesn't the committee report contain a summary of its Dec. 5, 1991, meeting? At this meeting VWR presented an entirely new plan. Instead of storing the waste in a stand-alone structure, their new intent was to store the hazardous wastes inside the existing F Street chemical warehouse. Public testimony was not allowed that night. The committee report with majority summary was finalized based on VWR's new plan.

- How could the committee recommend a facility on which the public was not allowed to comment? **The public hearing process should have started over with the introduction of VWR's new plan.**

On Jan. 8, 1992, the Omaha Planning Board recommended to the Omaha City Council that VWR's property at 3002 F St. and the contaminated property at 4120 Buckingham should be rezoned from General Industrial (GI) to Heavy Industrial (HI).

The planning director stated that an error had been made in 1987 when a mass conversion to a new zoning code reclassified much of the property in Omaha.

In 1987 the VWR properties were reclassified from I-1 (the lowest of the four industrial categories) to GI, but according to the planning director they should have been reclassified HI. At its Jan. 8 meeting the Planning Board was willing to hear testimony as it pertained to the so-called error, but refused to consider arguments pertaining to the propriety of an HI classification near a residential neighborhood.

Terms

We believe that VWR's properties were correctly reclassified GI in 1987 and that VWR's "grandfather" use rights to run its existing chemical warehouse were protected under the "nonconforming use" sections of the planning code:

Section 55-27 -- "Nonconforming Use: a lawful use of land...which does not comply with the use regulations for its zoning district...but which complied with applicable regulations at the time the use was established."

The zoning code describes the purpose of the GI and HI districts as:

Sect. 55-502 -- "The GI district (General Industrial), combined with performance standards, is appropriately located in...central city industrial areas."

Sect. 55-522 -- "The HI (Heavy Industrial) district is most appropriately located in areas which are separated from residential and consumer-oriented commercial districts." The east side of VWR's property is next to a residential district. Therefore, only the GI zoning is appropriate.

In 1989 VWR was permitted to build a new, larger warehouse (its building permit was even issued with an HI classification). Zoning codes state that nonconforming use and structure rights do not carry over to subsequent expansion. By building its new warehouse, VWR gave up its nonconforming rights.

Now VWR and the Planning Department

realize that the new warehouse and its associated operations belong in an HI district. It's a case of reverse planning. They made a mistake and now must rezone the property to HI to make the zoning conform to the mistake.

The 4120 Buckingham property lost its nonconforming use rights when VWR moved its operations to the new building at 3002 F St. in 1989. A property loses its nonconforming use rights if the property is not used for a specific operation for six months. We feel that the planning department has succumbed to the lobbying pressure of big business and is making a case to please VWR rather than protecting the people, as it is charged to do.

NATS must now make its case before the Omaha City Council. We feel that such a hazardous chemical operation is a danger to the public health and safety. Whether in the form of the D Street waste site, the proposed F street waste site, or the chemical warehouse, these operations do not belong where they are.

Recent findings have exposed the extent of contamination at 4120 Buckingham. How much of this contamination has already migrated from the site to people and to the environment surrounding the area? It must be cleaned up now.

Van Waters and Rogers must be forced to leave. Otherwise, it's just a big bomb waiting to go off.

NATS has obtained 19 pages of documentation from VWR's file at DEC regarding contamination of the 4120 Buckingham property. For a copy send \$3.50 to NATS, 11130 Jackson St., Omaha, NE 68154.

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Farmers, Grain Handlers at Their Mercy

RRs Manipulate Market With ICC Approval

by George Anthan

Washington, D.C. — Through its recent decisions backing railroads over the grain industry, the Interstate Commerce Commission has focused attention on agriculture's continued heavy dependence on rail companies, many of which exert virtual monopoly power over the transport of commodities.

The grain interests' unsuccessful pleas before the ICC, while presented in the language of Washington lawyers, nevertheless harken to the blunt resolution adopted in 1887 by the Nebraska Farmers Alliance.

"Railroad discrimination and extortion constitute the question of the day," it said, adding, "The railroad system is a system of spoliation and robbery."

First, the ICC allowed the Burlington Northern, in effect, to auction grain cars to the highest bidder, a practice Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan believes could, if adopted nationally, allow the railroads to manipulate care supply and prices and damage the competitiveness of U.S. farmers in domestic and export markets.

Also, the ICC has allowed railroads to financially assist some grain firms in improving or relocating their facilities.

The latter ruling, state the National Grain & Feed Association, "place the power to determine survival or failure of competing rail grain facilities based upon which shippers are granted financial incentives and which are not."

Refusing even to force public disclosure of such practices, NGFA's Kendell Keith said, "means that a non-favored competing facility might not even be aware of the cause of the competitive advantage granted to the competition by the rail carrier."

The two cases reveal the apprehension with which many in the grain industry view the giant railroads, which to a great extent determine their economic fortunes.

Seven railroads now dominate the business in terms of miles of road operated, tons of freight originated and ton-miles hauled: Burlington Northern, Union Pacific, Chessie System, Norfolk Southern, Southern Pacific, Conrail and Santa Fe. The Chicago and

North Western, Kansas City Southern and Illinois Central, although much smaller, also are important grain haulers.

Most farm-commodity shippers often have no choice but to do business with a single railroad. An industry survey indicates that 94.3 percent of country elevators on a rail line are served by a single company. "For the majority of shippers relying on rail transportation," NGFA states, barge and truck hauling are not viable alternatives.

The organization, which represents 1,200 firms, states that "grain, once in a country elevator...cannot feasibly be trucked to other elevators; the rehandling of the grain and trucking costs are at least 5 cents per bushel for just a 30-mile cross-country move and, even if another railroad can be found within 30 miles, there usually is a lack of competitive rail rates to make up the costs of cross-country trucking."

And trucking grain to barges is feasible only if the waterway is nearby.

The problem, NGFA says, is the same one that has always faced farmers: They and their grain handlers are captive purchasers, in this case of transportation, while the commodities they sell are subject to intense competition.

For example, NGFA says grain car shortages have "simply stopped country elevators from buying and selling grain. And when country elevators cannot accept grain...producers lose the opportunity to benefit from the favorable prices the marketplace is offering."

Without question, financially strong railroads are vital to agriculture. In recent years given rate-setting flexibility by the Staggers Act, railroads have greatly improved their earnings as traffic increases have been coupled with huge productivity gains. Rates in many cases have dropped.

Government, though, must see to it that shippers aren't justified in repeating Henry David Thoreau's sardonic quip:

"We do not ride upon the railroad; it rides upon us."

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Health Department Report on Minority Health

Minorities in Nebraska and the rest of the nation are more likely to die from preventable conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, accidents and pneumonia, than their white counterparts, according to a report released by the State Health Department.

Among the report's findings:

-- Nebraska's Native Americans are nearly twice as likely to die of heart disease as whites.

-- The infant mortality rate for blacks is more than double that of white babies.

-- The death rate for diabetes is over four times greater for Native Americans, three times greater for blacks, and almost twice as great for Hispanics as it is for whites.

-- The risk of dying of cancer in Nebraska is nearly twice as great for blacks as for whites.

-- Infectious diseases are more likely to cause death among Asians and Pacific Islanders than among other races.

The preventability of the conditions that affect the health of minorities means that actions can be taken to improve life expectancy and decrease health problems among minority members, according to Director of Health Dr. Mark Horton.

"When we talk about preventable deaths,

we're talking about people who could have lived longer because of timely health care or a change in diet or exercise habits," Dr. Horton said.

Studies have shown that almost 50 percent of preventable disease is lifestyle-related and can be prevented. When prevention efforts fail, however, early treatment of illnesses can minimize the negative impact of health problems.

"Improving access to health care, with emphasis on early diagnosis and treatment, is one major step we can take to improve the health of minority members," Dr. Horton said.

Access to health care is one of the major challenges facing minorities because they are more likely to live in poverty and not have insurance coverage, Dr. Horton said.

According to the report, the poverty rate for Nebraska blacks is nearly three times that of whites (29 percent v. 10 percent). Seventeen percent of Nebraska's Hispanics, Asians, and Pacific Islanders have incomes below the poverty rate, and over one third of Nebraska's Native Americans are living in poverty.

"People who live in poverty are the ones least likely to receive the health care they

need," he said.

A national health survey indicates that poor people of all races have more physician contacts and are more likely to have been hospitalized. These findings suggest that poor people postpone medical treatment until their condition is serious and requires extensive use of medical services, according to Dave Palm, director of the Bureau of Health Planning and Data Management at the Health Department.

Other studies have shown that hospital costs per patient are significantly higher for Hispanics and blacks compared to whites, suggesting that minorities suffer from greater severity of illness when they finally do enter the hospital, Palm said. Higher costs are also associated with greater use of emergency room services among the minority population.

In addition to improving access to health care, the report sets out other measures for bettering minority health, including:

- improving diet and nutrition;
- encouraging change in lifestyle factors such as smoking, substance abuse and lack of exercise;
- making available and encouraging early prenatal care for pregnant women and regu-

lar checkups for children.

Prenatal care and physician examinations of children on a regular basis would detect health problems early and significantly improve the life expectancy and overall health of young minority members, Dr. Horton said.

Minorities comprise about 7.5 percent of Nebraska's total population. Blacks, the largest minority group in the state, make up 3.5 percent of the population. Hispanics account for slightly over two percent. Since 1980, Nebraska's minority population has grown 27 percent.

Health Department Job Opening

The Nebraska Health Department has established an Office of Minority Health to set goals for minority health policy.

The department is currently searching for candidates for the position of coordinator, whose job will be to make recommendations for achieving goals for minority health, to propose interventions, improve outreach, coordinate minority health efforts in the state, and to find resources for the office through grants.

Mass. Tax Protesters Work Within Better System

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON—Few defiances of state authority are purer or more powerfully symbolic than conscientious tax refusal. Among the currently pure and powerful is Randy Kehler, a federal prisoner for the last month in the maximum security wing of the Hampshire County jail in Northampton, Mass. He is beginning a six-month stretch on a civil contempt charge.

Kehler's crime was to give money to poor people in homeless shelters, to Nicaraguans whose legs were blown off by contra land mines, or to veterans' counseling programs. He shared his wealth with people in need rather than sent it to the Internal Revenue Service which passes more than half of the annual tax haul to the Pentagon. Since 1977, Kehler and his wife Betsy Corner have diverted about \$32,000 of their incomes from military uses.

Courts routinely refuse to recognize conscientious tax refusal, although conscientious objection to the draft is within the law. Citizens can refuse to fight wars but no one, it appears, is exempt from paying for them. To that, Kehler, in the tradition of Henry David Thoreau and other stalwart tax refusers, says sorry, conscience, not legal precedent, is what he'll follow.

The Pentagon has been forced to make do without Kehler's and Corner's backing for the 14 years the couple has been paying state and local taxes but not federal. Their message to their war-preparing and war-making federal government was steered with personal conviction: no war, not in our name and

not with our tax dollars. Kehler and Corner, educated at Harvard and Mt. Holyoke where they learned that governmental policies are ever-changing and can be reformed, are hopeful that America will begin getting out of the warrior trade: "We look forward to the day when we can pay our federal taxes, with pride."

In addition to providing Kehler with a temporary home in jail, government officials are trying to take away his permanent home. In 1989, the IRS seized his and his wife's 80-year-old farmhouse in Colrain, Mass. IRS officials planned to sell it and recoup their lost taxes but no bidders came forth. So the feds bought it themselves -- for the minimum bid of \$5,100 and told the couple to move out. They refused a court order. Kehler could have avoided jail by promising the judge to stay out of the house. His wife did agree -- the couple has a daughter, 12 -- and was not jailed.

That might have been the end of the story -- the invincible IRS wins again -- except Kehler and Corner have a number of ornery and stubborn friends who also believe that their ill-jointed government is wasting money on war-making. These allies have been occupying the Kehler-Corner farmhouse for the past month, and intend to keep on with their in-house protest indefinitely.

Two weeks ago, a group of sympathizers from nearby Greenfield came in for seven days. Last week, it was citizens from Brattleboro, Vt. Next week, another group. A court order has been issued to turn off the power but it hasn't happened yet. It won't be

a problem anyway. A wood stove supplies heat, a cistern the water and plenty of candles are on hand for reading. All in all, a luxurious life, by Thoreau's standards.

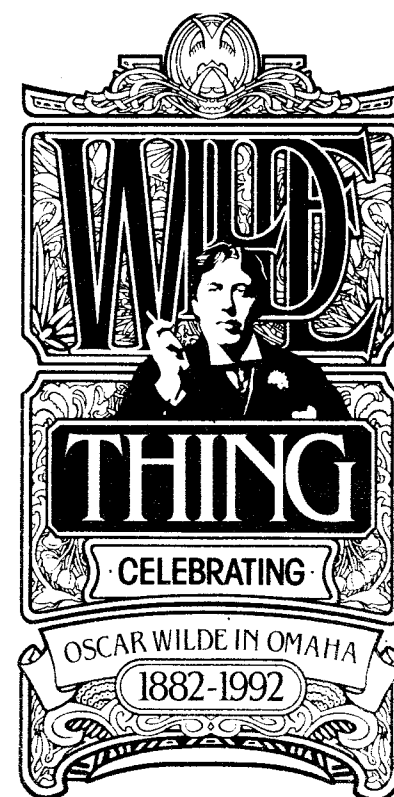
Kehler, who is 47, has taken on the government before. In the late 1960s, he served 22 months in federal prison for noncooperation with the Vietnam War draft. From 1980 to 1985, he ran the National Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. What bolsters him these days are some lessons learned when serving a recent elected term on the local school boards: "I was shocked to find out what a devastated state our schools are in. Many can't afford to buy textbooks for their students."

That led Kehler and Corner to investigate -- in detail -- the usage of their federal taxes. The conclusion is "just as wrong what our tax dollars are used for as what they are not used for.... An average (local) household paid a little over \$3,000 in federal income taxes in 1990. Of this amount more than \$1,500 went to the military, directly or indirectly. Meanwhile, only about \$85 was spent on education (18 times less than what the military got), only about \$48 on housing (32 times less than the military), only about \$19 on protecting the environment (79 times less than the military), only about \$12 on job training (120 times less than the military)."

Stern reprimands are regularly leveled against Kehler and Corner that they should "work within the system." But they are within the system, if the system is defined as a political structure that is obligated to care more for the needs of citizens than for the

wasteful appetites of a military-based economy. It means taxes for peace, not war. If the federal government refuses to work within that system -- a humane, rational one -- then Kehler and Corner will. They are alarmingly conventional.

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Priest/CIA Agent's 'Apartment Was Where They Plotted to Kill Pope

It Was Not the KGB That Coached Ali Agca

by Peter Hebblethwaite

Oxford, England — The ending of the Cold War has not meant the end of all Cold War attitudes. Last November, before the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee, Melvin Goodman accused Robert Gates, the future director of the CIA, of "manipulating and corrupting the very process and ethics of intelligence gathering."

In the 1980s, Goodman was head of the Soviet section of the CIA while Gates, according to Goodman, ran his own "strong-arm directorate of intelligence" that "almost to the end exaggerated the threat from Moscow, despite every sign of growing Soviet weakness."

Specifically, "to conform with the hawkish notions of the then CIA boss, William Casey, Gates even doctored assessments of the assassination attempt on the pope in May 1981 in order to suggest KGB involvement."

At the time, it was considered normal to believe the worst of the Soviet Union. Writers collaborated in this enterprise. In *The Time of the Assassins*, Claire Sterling purported to reveal "the inside story of the plot to kill the pope," a development of a 1982 article in *Reader's Digest*.

Paul Henze, formerly assistant to Zbigniew Brezinski on the National Security Council 1977-80, wrote *The Plot to Kill the Pope*, which depicted the shooting in St. Peter's Square as "part of the contest for men's minds between competing power centers: the Vatican and the Kremlin." The only thing that was accidental about the plot, Henze wrote, was that it failed.

Both books appeared in 1983. Both "proved" to their own satisfaction that Mehmet Ali Agca was trained by DIGOS, the Bulgarian secret service, acting on behalf of the KGB. The head of the KGB at the time was Yuri Andropov, shortly to become first secretary of the Soviet Communist Party. Mikhail Gorbachev, who succeeded him in 1985, had been Andropov's protégé and was therefore indirectly associated with "terrorism" as a political weapon.

So after 1985 the assassination yarn could be used to discredit Gorbachev and cast doubt on his sincerity. *Perestroika* and *glasnost* were regarded as merely tactical. The Soviets had no concept of objective truth. In 1985 the Soviet Union was still, in the words President Ronald Reagan was soon to eat, "an evil empire."

Pope John Paul, object of the assassination, was just as anticommunist as Reagan in supporting the contras against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua.

Yet, from the Vatican there was never a word about KGB involvement in the assassination attempt on the pope. There was no theorizing at all. The pope forgave his would-be assassin before the TV cameras and that was that.

True, there was a cryptic remark from Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, Vatican secretary of state at the time, on the feast of St.

Peter and Paul 1981: "A hostile heart (or perhaps hearts) armed an enemy hand to strike at the pope, and such a pope!"

Whatever that piece of obscurity may have meant, no plot was required to explain the assassination attempt. Mehmet Ali Agca could have acted on his own for Grey Wolf or Muslim reasons. His defense lawyer claimed his motive was to become a hero for the Arab world and to ensure that his name went down in history as the killer of a famous Christian. That is a sufficient explanation.

Now we come to a fresh piece of evidence -- or rather an old piece of evidence reconsidered. In November, 1991, after the Senate Intelligence Committee hearing, Giulio Andreotti, currently prime minister of Italy, attended the launch of Luca di Schiena's book *Karol Wojtyla*. In a short speech, he drew attention to a "gross error" in the trial that had not been followed up by Judge Ilario Martella.

Ali Agca alleged that the final arrangements for the assassination were made with Sergei Antonov, Rome head of the Balkanair, the Bulgarian airline, May 10. But when asked to describe Antonov's apartment at via Pola, 29, in the comfortable Nomentana district, Ali Agca declined, saying he would send a note later.

Andreotti then said that when Ali Agca's sketch arrived, it was evidently not Antonov's flat at all but that of the floor below "where lived a foreigner whose papers can be found in the archives of the secret service of a non-Eastern country." Andreotti did not disclose the name of this mysterious stranger.

Midwife

from page 3

personalized care but also cost control and with it the hope of delivering more prenatal care in low-income settings where it is most needed. So far, however, except for Des Moines, and only for eight years, the cost advantages of midwifery have eluded Iowans and Nebraskans. While physicians who resist supporting the practice of midwives in alternative settings cite drawbacks such as lack of control, comparative difficulty of access to emergency equipment, and lack of previous knowledge about the patient, they seem unwilling to incorporate midwifery into hospital settings while passing on the cost savings. Shellenberger says, "I'm really trying hard not to step on physicians' toes."

It was in fact Father Felix Morlion, a Belgian Dominican well known as a CIA agent. He is a man with a record. Back in 1962, he had played a role in resolving the Cuban missile crisis. In 1969, Monsignor Carlo De Angelis gave a suitcase full of documents to Mino Pecorelli, an investigative journalist murdered in 1979: They showed that Morlion's Pro Deo Institute was a school for anti-Soviet spies.

There were other reasons for mistrusting Ali Agca's account of this final meeting. His sketch got the entrance and the corridor in the wrong place. More seriously, he claimed that Antonov's wife, Rossica, was present and that their 10-year-old daughter, Ani, served them tea.

This was impossible because, three months before, Ani had been taken to Sofia, where she was in school; and Rossica left Rome by car two days before. Like so much of Ali Agca's evidence, it belonged to fantasy rather than fact.

Maddeningly, Andreotti's "revelations" stop well short of any conclusion. However, he did drop another hint. Antonov was the head of the Bulgarian drug ring in Rome, a man much too precious to be jeopardized on an absurd plot to kill the pope. Hence

Antonov's justified panic when he was arrested Nov. 25, 1982, and his bewilderment and relief at being implicated in the plot to kill the pope. *It let him off the hook.*

Andreotti is on excellent terms with the Vatican and especially Casaroli. One may be quite sure that he shared his information. There was no Bulgarian connection, and consequently no KGB connection. Antonov was "framed," and Ali Agca was "coached" by some other intelligence agency.

DIGOS, the Bulgarian intelligence agency, and the KGB always protested their innocence. Perhaps it is now easier to believe that they were telling the truth. In the Cold War period, and under the influence of Robert Gates' manipulation, Paul Henze's comment, which then seemed plausible, now looks like ironic projection: "The Soviet press unleashed a massive campaign of insinuation, distortion and blatant lying to try to deflect suspicion from the Kremlin."

Well, they would, wouldn't they?
Gates is now the head of the CIA.

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Magic Johnson's Ultimate Trip Up the Court

by Harvey Wasserman

"To me, it's really amazing. I get paid to play basketball, and there's nothing I'd rather do."

Magic Johnson told me that in the locker room in Richfield, just before his Los Angeles Lakers went out and beat the Cleveland Cavaliers by six points. It was late Fall, 1989, the last season of the legendary Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. The 6'9" Magic was just barely beginning to show the signs of the same aging process that would make this Kareem's last go. He had lost a half-step running the court, maybe some velocity on his passing. He was now all of 30 years old.

But his overall game was actually improving the fraction lost in quickness and

raw speed was more than transcended by his ever-growing sixth sense for the game.

Now he will have to develop the same extra sense for politics.

Magic Johnson was always something more than just a basketball player. In high school, he could steal, dribble, pass, shoot and rebound with an entire opposing team. At Michigan State, in his home town of East Lansing, he led an otherwise undistinguished crew to a national championship.

He did it in a final game against Indiana State, led by Larry Bird, who went to the Boston Celtics as Magic headed for Showtime in L.A. In tandem they transformed professional basketball.

Without overwhelming physical gifts, Bird

also brought a psychic dimension to shooting, passing and team leadership. Going from rural Indiana to an organization that often put more whites on the court than any other NBA team, Bird was the Great White Hope in a game increasingly dominated by blacks.

Teamed with Kareem, Magic seemed to define the opposite end of the racial spectrum. But his grace, articulate ease and unflappable good nature allowed him to transcend the question of race. A great team leader, he was a stunning statesman. He never got into physical fights. His disputes with referees usually ended with that infectious, conciliatory smile.

He hated to lose, but accepted defeat with

charm. After last year's megahyped head-to-head with the incomparable Michael Jordan, Johnson graciously made the trip from his losers' locker room to congratulate the victorious Bulls. "He's a class guy," says Cavaliers Coach Lenny Wilkins. "Always was. You could see it right from the start."

Johnson also had time for silly questions. In Cleveland, I asked him if he missed Bird, then out with an injury. "Yeah," he responded, sincerely wistful. "I really do. I think about him a lot."

"Sometimes," he added, "I can't believe my good luck. I'm getting paid to do what I love best. I just love to play basketball."

Now he can't. Having tested positive for the HIV virus, Magic has embarked on a new career with characteristic aplomb. "My back is to the wall," he announced with his retirement. "But I'm going to be the same happy-go-lucky guy I always have been."

Maybe. Magic is widely estimated to be worth \$100 million. He could spend the rest of his life stress-free on some tropical beach.

Instead, he's plunged into a cultural war. Blaming no one but himself, smiling generously throughout, he has taken responsibility for his own misfortune. In preaching safe sex, he has helped save hundreds of lives.

Now co-authoring a book with former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, Johnson seems almost naive in his good-spirited demeanor. Does he really know how vicious these New Puritans are in their demand that we all become virginal creatures of some fundamentalist prison? Does he understand the David Dukes and Phyllis Schlaflys of the world believe "he got what he deserved" because he slept around -- and because he's black?

No ghetto adolescent -- or even a rich white suburban one -- is free of the belief in his or her own youthful invulnerability. Given an uninformed choice between wild sex, safe sex or no sex, safe sex will come in a distant second. No sex isn't even in the stadium.

Before his announcement, Magic seemed the essence of invulnerability. For this virus to strike him, of all people, is a major statement of its own malignant power.

But Magic may prove its ultimate foe. If one can fault him for anything, it's for not speaking out earlier about the evils of racism, injustice, disease.

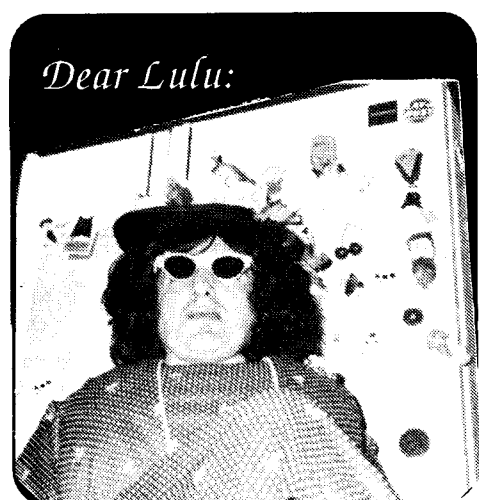
Now one must wonder how he will handle questions of why our public funds have been going for guns instead of AIDS research. Why whites have so many more advantages in getting treatment than blacks. Why our last two presidents have cared more about protecting corporate wealth than Americans dying in droves from preventable plagues.

In short, we'll see how Earvin Johnson handles real world politics.

No one expects him to be perfect. But the magic is there, and we can only hope he has time to expand and grow with it. This will be his ultimate trip up the court. In a real sense, he's handling the ball for all of us.

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Bush Can Just Say No to Diarrhea



Dear Lulu,

I'm writing this on Elvis' 57th birthday to share the rare events of today with your readers. We had the birthday party for him like we always do but we ran out of beef jerky so we went to Wal-Mart to get some more and there Elvis was, right in the deodorant aisle! Can you imagine! So we invited him over and he came and it was great. He says he'll be back one of these days. I thought you'd like to know.

Love, Elvisina from Elva

Dear Elvisina:

Wonderful news. Did he say how Jimmy Hoffa or Gandhi were doing? Keep in touch.

Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu,

I am very impressed by President Bush's new health care policy, "Don't get sick." What an original idea! I can't imagine why someone didn't think of it earlier. It sort of reminds me of advice my mother gave me, but I really think he should be congratulated! I even have a slogan for the policy: "Just say 'no' to diarrhea!" How do you like it?

Love, A Hypochondriac in Hyannis.

Dear Hypo,

I like it. It could be the start of something big. For example, "Stop divorces! Don't marry." "Stop bankruptcies! Pay your bills." "Stop AIDS. Don't have sex." "Stop war. Don't make war." "Stop graft in public office! Don't vote for politicians." As you can see, the possibilities are endless. As to whether President Bush first thought of it, I think not. God thought of it, and it was called Heaven. Thanks for thinking of us.

Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu,

Well, I'm sitting down to make my New

Year's resolutions and that made me think of 1991 and what happened and of course David Duke carried a majority of the whites in Louisiana and Dan Quayle made statements like "I believe we're on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy, but that could change," and "Saddam Hussein doesn't think we've wasted our money on \$600 toilet seats" so I resolved not to be a Republican during 1992 but then I remembered Ted Kennedy was still extant so I resolved not to be a Democrat and now I'm nothing but confused. Are New Year's resolutions a good idea?

Love, Confused in Concord

Dear Confused,

A New Year's resolution is a lot like a Robert Fulgham book and/or a date with Sandy Duncan -- they're not very good and they may make you wretch. Go out and feed the birds or check the specials at Wal-Mart.

Love Lulu

P.S. Since you seem to follow the man one heartbeat from Mrs. Bush's husband, you might consider "The Quayle Quarterly" (Box 8593, Brewster Station, Bridgeport, CT 06605). A sample can be had for \$395. Good luck in those Wal-Mart aisles.

Get Up to \$2,000 in Two Simple Steps

Did you work during 1991—and did your family earn less than \$21,250?

Did a child live with you for at least half the year?

If so, you may be eligible for up to \$2,000 from the Earned Income Credit. It's a federal benefit for both married and single parents who worked either full or part time during part or all of the year.

How to Get Your Money

Getting your Earned Income Credit takes just two simple steps:

- 1 file a federal income tax return (Form 1040A or 1040)
- 2 fill out "Schedule EIC" and attach it to your tax return

If you're eligible, you'll either owe less in taxes—or the government will mail you a check! You can get the Earned Income Credit even if you don't owe income tax.

Does Earned Income Credit Reduce Other Government Benefits?

In almost all cases, no. Some families eligible for the EIC also receive benefits under other government programs, including AFDC, food stamps, SSI, Medicaid, and public or subsidized housing. Only in rare cases will the EIC lower benefits in these other programs.

For more information, call the IRS toll free at 1-800-829-1040. You can get tax forms from the IRS, or at your local Post Office and many banks and libraries.

TV For A Better World

Notes: All times are Central Standard. Please check local listings to confirm. If you have any suggestion or comments call Alice at (402) 455-9137 or drop a note care of this paper.

Sunday, March 1

Environment "Antarctica: The Last Frontier" is an enlightening look at the mysteries and wonders of this largely unexplored continent and its importance in the future. 8:00PM Disney.

History "Class of the 20th Century" Part 9 "1968-1970" Frank Zappa, Peter Max and Jesse Jackson are among the commentators discussing the era of Woodstock. 11:00AM A&E.

Monday, March 2

Middle-east "The Struggle for Peace: Israelis and Palestinians" looks at the ordinary men and women on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict who are working in different ways for a peaceful resolution in an area ravaged by war. 10:00PM Nebraska ETV.

Thursday, March 5

History "Class of the 20th Century" Part 10 "1970-1976" Carl Bernstein, Betty Ford and Diane Sawyer discuss Watergate and the impact of the women's rights movement. 9:00PM A&E.

Saturday March 7

History "Class of the 20th Century" Part 10 "1970-1976" Carl Bernstein, Betty Ford and Diane Sawyer discuss Watergate and the impact of the women's rights movement. 7:00PM A&E.

Sunday, March 8

History "Class of the 20th Century" Part 10 "1970-1976" Carl Bernstein, Betty Ford and Diane Sawyer discuss Watergate and the impact of the women's rights movement. 11:00AM A&E.

Fun "Phil and Arthur Go Off to Loch Ness" British comics Phil Nice and Arthur Smith lead a group of tourists in search of the Loch Ness Monster. 10:00PM Discovery.

Tuesday, March 10

History "Hitler: The Whole Story" The rise to power of Adolf Hitler, whose Third Reich promised the German people law and order, a sense of purpose and belief in themselves. Part 1-8:00PM, Part 2-9:00PM, Part 3-10:00PM Discovery.

Wednesday, March 11

Health "Shattered Lullabies" Investigates the reasons behind the high infant mortality rate in the United States. 9:00PM Lifetime.

Fine Arts "Matisse: Voyages" The life and work of artist Henri Matisse, including a description of his travels to Tangiers, Tahiti and New York. 9:00PM The Learning Channel.

Thursday, March 12

History "Class of the 20th Century" Part 11 "1976-1990" Peter Jennings joins Richard Dreyfuss to explore the Iran hostage crisis, the presidencies of Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan and the destruction of the Berlin Wall. 9:00PM A&E.

Fine Arts "Matisse: Voyages" The life and work of artist Henri Matisse, including a description of his travels to Tangiers, Tahiti and New York. 4:00PM The Learning Channel.

Friday, March 13

Women "Not on the Frontline" focuses on five very different stories from women who served in Vietnam, culminating in Washington, D.C., with the women who initiated the project to develop a memorial for women Vietnam vets. Narrated by Marg Helgenberger, who portrayed K.C. on the ABC Vietnam-based "China Beach" series. 10:25PM Nebraska ETV.

Fine Arts "Matisse: Voyages" The life and work of artist Henri Matisse, including a description of his travels to Tangiers, Tahiti and New York. 2:00PM The Learning Channel.

Saturday, March 14

Religion "Catholics and Sex" looks at the controversy within the Catholic faith surrounding birth control and in-vitro fertilization. 5:00PM Discovery.

History "Class of the 20th Century" Part 11 "1976-1990" Peter Jennings joins Richard Dreyfuss to explore the Iran hostage crisis, the presidencies of Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan and the destruction of the Berlin Wall. 7:00PM A&E.

Sunday, March 15

History "Class of the 20th Century" Part 11 "1976-1990" Peter Jennings joins Richard Dreyfuss to explore the Iran hostage crisis, the presidencies of Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan and the destruction of the Berlin Wall. 11:00AM A&E.

Thursday, March 19

History "Class of the 20th Century" Part 12 "Scrapbook of the Century" Tom Brokaw and Howard Cosell are among the celebrities discussing the end of the Cold War and the collapse of communism. 9:00PM A&E.

Sunday, March 22

History "Class of the 20th Century" Part 12 "Scrapbook of the Century" Tom Brokaw and Howard Cosell are among the celebrities discussing the end of the Cold War and the collapse of communism. 9:00PM A&E.

Tuesday, March 24

Fine Arts "Paris Dance Diaghilev" Original costumes and set designs high-

light the Paris Opera Ballet's performances of the Ballet Russe's works. 9:00PM A&E.

Wednesday, March 25

Family "Moyers/Families First" Journalist Bill Moyers explores the human services system in this country as it responds to the increasing number of American families in danger of disintegration. Moyers visits families in Missouri, Kentucky and Michigan who are dealing with all kinds of crises, yet are managing to stay intact by allowing social workers to enter their homes and work with them to develop the skills they need to stay together. Follow-up March 26. 8:00 PM Nebraska ETV.

Health "Shattered Lullabies" Investigates the reasons behind the high infant mortality rate in the United States. 2:00PM Lifetime.

Fine Arts "Ireland: A Writer's Island" Examines the influence of Ireland's settings on its writers, including James Joyce and George Bernard Shaw. 8:00PM & 11:00PM The Learning Channel.

Thursday, March 26

Family "Famillyness" follows up on some of the issues Bill Moyers explored Wednesday. "Insulating Our Kids from Today's Influences" is the topic of a town hall forum taped February 25 at Northwest High School in Omaha. Speakers from previous session of Omaha Public School's Famillyness series responded to audience questions on this subject so relevant to today's families. A live follow-up is planned via public radio to give viewers a chance to "ask the experts" their own questions about parenting issues.

Fine Arts "Ireland: A Writer's Island" Examines the influence of Ireland's settings on its writers, including James Joyce and George Bernard Shaw. 3:00PM The Learning Channel.

Friday, March 27

Fine Arts "Ireland: A Writer's Island" Examines the influence of Ireland's settings on its writers, including James Joyce and George Bernard Shaw. 1:00PM The Learning Channel.

Saturday, March 28

Animal-Rights "Pelts: Politics of the Fur Trade" A documentary on the fur trade and fur sales. In Europe and North America, anti-fur lobbyists and animal rights activists spend millions of dollars trying to persuade the public to boycott fur products and to end the fur trade. Their opposition to the fur industry stems from the belief that the killing of millions of animals every year for luxury items, such as fur coats, is morally indefensible. The fur industry maintains that no species used for fur coats is endangered and that the animals are killed humanely. 7:00PM Nebraska ETV.

Health "Shattered Lullabies" Investigates the reasons behind the high infant mortality rate in the United States. 2:00PM & 10:00PM Lifetime.

Sunday, March 29

Fine Arts "Paris Dance Diaghilev" Original costumes and set designs highlight the Paris Opera Ballet's performances of the Ballet Russe's works. 12:00PM A&E.

Monday, March 30

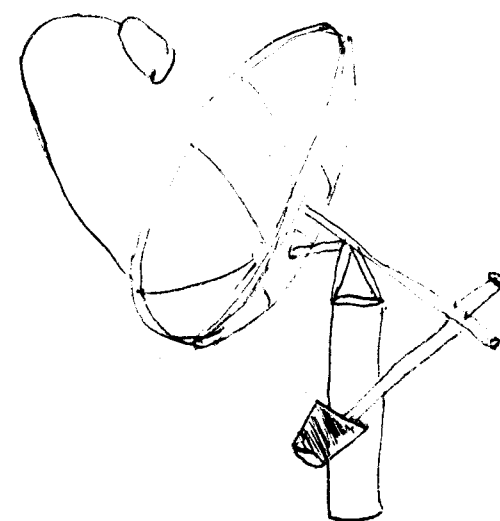
Environment "Can Tropical Rainforests be Saved?" presents a global examination of the threat to rainforests, traveling across more than a dozen rainforested countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as Japan, the world's largest importer of tropical rainforest wood. 8:00 PM Nebraska ETV.

Tuesday, March 31

Religion "Faith Under Fire" documentary look at the startling developments in Eastern Europe through the eyes of individuals who made, and continue to make, decisions of conscience at considerable risk. From the story of a Czechoslovakian priest who opposed the Communist hierarchy to the account of a deeply religious Polish activist now opposing the renewed power of the Catholic Church, the program explores the past as well as the continuing revolution in Eastern Europe. 10:00 PM Nebraska ETV.

Health "Shattered Lullabies" Investigates the reasons behind the high infant mortality rate in the United States. 2:00PM Lifetime.

Environment "Images of Galapagos" American naturalist Janet Rogers observes the wildlife of the Galapagos islands. 1:00PM Discovery.



a r t e x h i b i t s

Area Gallery Listings**Adam Whitney Gallery**

8725 Shamrock Rd, Omaha.

393-1051

Hours: 10-5 Monday through Saturday

Anderson O'Brien Gallery

8724 Pacific St., Omaha.

Antiquarium Gallery

1215 Harney St., Omaha.

341-8077

Art d'Echo

136 W. 13th St., Crete, NE.

Through March 8th-Works by Todd Georgi and Barb Hollingsworth.**Artists' Cooperative Gallery**

405 S. 11th St., Omaha.

342-9617

Hours: Wed. & Thurs. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun. noon-5 p.m..

Bellevue College Gallery

Galvin Rd. at Harvell Dr., Bellevue.

292-3732

Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.; 1-5 p.m. Sun.

Bemis New Gallery

614 S. 11th, Omaha.

341-7130

Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, including weekends.

March 7th through April 19th-Patrick Siler, paintings, woodcuts, ceramic sculpture.**Sat., March 7th**-Opening reception, 7-10 p.m.**Thurs., March 19th**-Bemis Slide Lecture Series, 7 p.m. in the gallery.**Burkholder Project**

719 "P" St., Lincoln.

477-3305

Hours: 10-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

Cathedral Arts Project

St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St., Omaha.

558-3100

Hours: 1-3:30 p.m. Thurs.-Sun. and by appointment.

Concordia College

Marxhausen Gallery, 800 N. Columbia Ave, Seward NE.

Through March 6th-Faculty show.**Council Bluffs Artist's Loft**

407 W. Broadway, Council Bluffs.

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; noon-4 p.m. Sat.

Creighton Fine Arts Gallery

Creighton University

27th and California, Omaha.

280-2509

Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; noon-4 p.m. Sun.

Dana College

Parnassus Gallery, Blair, NE.

Through March 13th-A Sabbatical Retrospective Exhibit: Milt Heinrich."**Eyesound Gallery**

109 N. 50th, Omaha.

553-4432

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

Fremont Art Association Gallery

92 W. 6th St., Fremont.

Gallery 72

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha.

345-3347

Garden of the Zodiac

Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard, Omaha.

341-1877.

Haydon Gallery

335 N. 8th, Hardy Building, Lincoln.

475-5421

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

Haymarket Art Gallery

119 S. 9th St., Lincoln.

475-1061

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.

Hillmer Art Gallery

College of St. Mary, 1901 S. 72nd St., Omaha.

399-2621

Hours: 1 p.m.-5 p.m. daily, except Fri.

Iowa Western Community College Fine Arts Gallery

2700 College Rd. Council Bluffs.

325-3352

Jewish Community Center

333 S. 132nd St., Omaha.

334-8200

Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri.;

1 p.m.-7 p.m. Sat.; 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Sun.

Joslyn Art Museum

2200 Dodge, Omaha.

342-3300

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues. & Wed., Fri.

& Sat.; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thurs.; 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Sun.

Through April 5th-Edward S. Curtis" and "Points of View"**Through April 12th**-From Expressionism to Resistance, Art in Germany 1909-1936: the Marvin and Janet Fishman Collection."**Through May 17th**-John David Brcin, Sculptor."**Through May 31st**-American Indian Art from the permanent collection.**Metro Arts Artspace**

601 S. 16th St., Omaha.

341-7910

Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. or by appointment.

Museum of Nebraska Art

24th & Central Ave., Kearney.

(308) 234-8559

Hours: 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.

Through March 6th-Prairie Lights Arts Showcase.**Nebraska Wesleyan University**

Elder Gallery, Rogers Center for the Fine Arts,

50th & Huntington Ave., Lincoln.

Through March 26th-Fred Wells 16th Annual Juried Exhibiton."**Passageway Gallery**

417 S. 11th St. Omaha.

341-1910

Photographer's Gallery, Inc.

4831 Dodge St., Omaha.

551-5731

Hours: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sun.; closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

Peru State College

Jindra Fine Arts Center, Peru, NE.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

12th & "R" Sts, UNL Campus, Lincoln.

472-2461

Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m.-9 p.m.; Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Mon.

Through April 5th-A Personal Geometry: Paintings by Martha Horvay."**Through April 19th**-Sheldon Solo: Juan Hamilton."**13th St. Gallery**

1264 S. 13th St., Omaha.

Hours: 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Fri., Sat., & Sun.

Through March 15th-K.K. Pluhacek, drawings.**Sioux City Art Center**

513 Nebraska St., Sioux City, Iowa.

Through March 22nd- "The Legacy of Africa in the New World."**Through March 29th**-James L. Tanner, wall-relief ceramics.**University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery**

616 S. 11th St. (2nd floor in CAT Bldng.)

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Other Midwest Galleries**Art Institute of Chicago**

Michigan at Adams St., Chicago, Illinois.

(312) 443-3600

Hours: 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon., Wed. & Fri.; 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Tues.; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.; noon-5 p.m. Sun.

Admission: \$5, seniors & students \$2.50.

Des Moines Art Center

4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.

(515) 277-4405

Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues., Wed., Fri., & Sat.; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thurs.; noon-5 p.m. Sun.; closed Mon.

Gallery 306

102 S. Dakota Ave. Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The Peace Museum

Chicago Cultural Center

78 East Washington

Fourth Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60602

(312) 541-1474

Witter Gallery

609 Cayuga St., Storm Lake, Iowa.

The peace museum is the first museum in the nation dedicated to exploring the art, the cultural heritage and the issues surrounding Peace. Through its exhibitons and programs, The Peace Museum hopes to create greater public awareness of the need for peace, and greater involvement in efforts to achieve it. For information about the museum's Traveling Exhibition Program or to find out about the current in-house schedule, call (312) 541-1474.

**Arts and events
calendar items
Jeanette Morgan
341-8030**

a r e a e v e n t s

Note: Information was current as of press time, but changes may occur. Call for updates.

Directory of Venues:

Ballet Omaha, performs at the Orpheum Theatre, 346-7332.

Bellevue Little Theatre, 203 W. Mission Ave., 291-1554.

Bemis Foundation/New Gallery, 614 S. 11 St., 341-7130. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Blue Barn Theater, 1258 S. 13 St., 345-1576.

Center Stage, 30 & "Q" Sts., 733-5777.

Chanticleer Theater, 830 Franklin Ave., Council Bluffs, (712) 323-9955.

Circle Theater, 6064 Maple St., 553-4715.

Creighton University, Performing Arts Center, 30 & Burt Sts.;

C.U. Art Gallery, 27th & California Sts., 280-2509.

Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 3504 Center St., 345-4849.

Firehouse Dinner and Theatre, 11 & Jackson Sts., 346-8833.

Grande Olde Players, 701 S. 39 St., 345-2462.

Henry Doorly Zoo, 10 & Deer Park Ave., 733-8400.

Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., 342-3300.

Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12 & "R" Sts., Lincoln. 472-5353.

Magic Theater, 325 S. 16th St, 346-1227.

Omaha Civic Auditorium, 18 & Capitol, 444-4750.

Omaha Children's Museum, 500 S. 20 St., 342-6164. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tues.-Sat.; 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sun.

Omaha Community Playhouse, 69 & Cass Sts., 553-0800.

Omaha Symphony Orchestra, see listings for venues, 342-3560.

Omaha Workshop Theater, 3419 "L" St., 558-2953. Shows Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m.

Opera/Omaha, performs at Orpheum Theater, 346-0357.

Orpheum Theater, 409 S. 16 St., 444-4750.

Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam St.

Rosenblatt Stadium, 13 & Bert Murphy Dr., 734-5271.

Strauss Performing Arts Center, on the UNO campus, 63 & Dodge.

University of Nebraska at Omaha, 63 & Dodge.

Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 S. 19 St.,

344-7777.

Wesley House, African Community Theater, 2001 N. 35 St.

Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10 St., 444-5071.

SPECIAL EVENTS

V.V.A. Chapter #146 General Membership Meetings, **2nd Tues.** each month at the V.F.W. Post, 33 & Leavenworth Sts. Call Tom at 453-2568 for more info.

Bisexual Support Group meets **1st Mon.** of each month, 7 p.m. at the Cornerstone, in the upstairs conference room, 640 N. 16 St., Lincoln.

March 1st-125th Anniversary of Nebraska's becoming a state (1867).

Wed., March 18th-Terri McFerrin Smith, fiction writer, reads at 7:30 p.m., Milo Bail Student Center, Dodge Room, 3rd floor. General Admission \$3, students \$1.

Fri., March 20th, and Sat., March 21st- The First Annual Wilde Thing, a spring festival celebrating the life and works of Oscar Wilde and commemorating the 110th anniversary of Oscar Wilde's visit to Omaha.

This series of performances will be produced as a benefit for the Nebraska Aids Project. Reader's theater productions of Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest," will be held each night at 9 p.m. with pre show readings from Wilde's impressions of America beginning at 8:30. The shows will be held at the Antiquarium, 1215 Harney. Guests are invited to stay for a post-performance soiree with the actors, sharing Victorian-style refreshments and listening to the violin of Omaha Symphony Concertmaster Richard Lohmann and the piano of Phyllis Dunne. Tickets are \$10 at the door, or may be reserved by contacting NAP 342-4233.

Sun., March 22nd-"Wilde Tales," an evening of stories, accompanied by Mark Nelson's guitar improvisations, drawn from Wilde's "The Happy Prince and Other Tales" and "The House of Pomegranates." Also at the Antiquarium, 1215 Harney St., at 7 p.m. Tickets at \$5 at the door or may be reserved by calling NAP 342-4233.

Sat., March 28th-Monte Carlo Night at Bellevue College Student Center, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$1 entrance donation, cash bar, all proceeds go to the Nebraska Aids Project.

ENVIRONMENT, PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Earth Day meets **every Tues.** at Willa Cather Branch Library, 44 & Center, 6:30 p.m.

Ecology Now meets every Sunday at 4

p.m.

Youth for Peace meets every **Wed., 6 p.m.** upstairs at the Antiquarium, 1215 Harney.

C.L.E.A.N. (City Lead Environmental Action Nebraska) meets **1st Thurs. each month** at Dorothy Lanphier's, 5302 Izard, 554-1108.

No-Name Recycling Group meets every **Sat., 10 a.m.-noon** at the First Presbyterian Church, 216 S. 34 St. (34 & Farnam).

Ongoing: Nebraskans for Peace Health Care Signature Campaign. Call 453-0776 for more info.

Check out Strawberry Fields at The Center Mall, 42nd & Center, bottom level. It's a non-profit shop whose goals are to provide meaningful employment for young adults with developmental disabilities here in Omaha and to promote the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their crafts. It's open **10 a.m.-6 p.m., Mon. through Fri., and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sat.** Contributions, financial and otherwise, are welcome, as at this point they need community support to keep operating. They can use donations of fabric scraps, cardboard pieces, and small boxes. Call 342-5905.

March 3 vigil, North side of State Capitol for the abolition of the death penalty. 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

March 7th-Nebraskans for Peace annual conference. Hastings College, Bellevue House Student Center, 9th and Elm St. Hastings, NE. 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Principle speaker John Exdell, professor of philosophy, Kansas State University. Also, "Health Care, a peace and justice issue."

March 31, Tuesday, 7 p.m., Swanson Library, 90th and Dodge. Omaha Friends present a video and discussion, "War, Taxes and the Almighty Dollar." Individual perspectives on war tax resistance. Refreshments provided.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

Through April 1st-Western Heritage Museum, "Mildred Brown and the Omaha Star, Building a Community."

Through April 23rd-Western Heritage Museum, "Women of the Wild West Shows."

FILM

Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Lincoln.

Sun., March 1st-"Interrogation," by Richard Bugajski. (Poland, 1982) Screenings at 2:30, 4:45, 7, and 9 p.m.

Thurs., March 5th through Sat., April 18th-"The Magic of Art: The Films of Philip Haas." Screenings at 12 noon on Thurs. and Fri. and at 11 a.m. on Sat.

Thurs., March 5th-Sun., March 8th- "The Story of Boys and Girls," by Pupi Avati, plus a short, "The Comb: From the Museums of Sleep," by the Brothers Quay. Screenings at 7 and 9 p.m. Matinees on Sat. at 1 and 3 p.m. and on Sun., at 3 and 5 p.m.

Sun., March 15th-"Freeze-Die-Come to Life," by Vitaly Kanevski. (USSR, 1990) Screenings at 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m.

Thurs., March 19th through Sun., March 22nd and Thurs., March 26th through Sun. March 29th- "City of Hope," by John Sayles. Screenings at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Matinees on Sat. at 12:30 and 3 p.m. and on Sun. at 2 and 4:30 p.m.

MUSIC & DANCE

The Coffee House Series continues this winter at the Blue Barn Theater. **Every Mon. at 8 p.m.** the series features original material by local acoustic artists. Bring your own coffee cup.

Call 345-1576 for more info.

New Music Tuesdays, most Tues. nights the Howard Street Tavern features alternative music from local and national acts.

Every Sun. 6-9 p.m.-Omaha International Folk Dancers. Grace Lutheran Church, 26 & Woolworth Sts. Beginners welcome.

THEATER

Blue Barn Theater

Through March 1st-"Fortinbras Gets Drunk."

Center Stage Theater

March 20th-April 5th-"To Kill a Mockingbird."

Chanticleer Theater

March 27th through April 5th-"You Can't Take It With You."

Circle Theater

Through March 21st-"Sadie's Last Chance Ice Cream Parlor-Health Spa."

Emmy Gifford Children's Theater

Through March 29th-"White as Snow, Red as Blood: The Story of Snow White."

Firehouse Dinner Theater

Through March 9th-"See How They Run."

March 11th through May 3rd-"Barefoot in the Park."

Jewish Community Center

Through March 8th-"The Cemetery Club."

Magic Theater

Call for upcoming show info.
Omaha Community Playhouse

Mainstage:

March 13th through April 5th-"Amadeus."

Fonda MacGuire Series:

March 27th through April 18th-"Other People's Money."

NPPD, OPPD Should Avoid Waste, Duplication Joint Plans, Small Plants Rejected by Utilities

by Michael J. O'Hara

The author is a member of, and Secretary for, the OPPD Board of Directors. He is a UNO College of Business Administration Associate Professor in the Law and Society Department, and is Interim Director of the International Center for Telecommunications Management. From 1985 to 1989 he served on the Nebraska Power Review Board.

OPPD's lobbyist Mr. Del Dirrim testified Feb. 13 on LB 1005, and his comments amounted to saying that every electric utility in Nebraska believes that saving ratepayers' money is unnecessary, and that LB 1005 is misguided. I believe he is wrong on both counts. Not all, but some utilities act as if saving money is not necessary.

OPPD's Mr. Dirrim does not want you to worry too much, since only pocket change is at issue. Amongst friends, what is over \$900 million of waste? It only amounts to over \$600 per Nebraskan, which would only be about one year of free electric service. According to OPPD's Mr. Dirrim, LB 1005 is misguided and unnecessary. I disagree.

Senator Eric Will from Omaha introduced LB 1005 out of his dedication to protecting his constituents' pocket books. Also, LB 1005 maintains local control by encouraging cooperation between utilities, without mandating cooperation. Therefore, the electric industry's reaction to Senator Will's bill is as curious as it is illustrative.

Utilities face ineffective regulation by the Nebraska Power Review Board. Ratepayers do not get cost saving cooperation from the PRB. After 29 years and over 80 power plants, only two cooperative ownership power plant applications have been filed, and neither was built. One was thwarted by NPPD and the other by OPPD. Because OPPD and NPPD avoid cooperation and the PRB is ineffective, it is time for the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee to exercise its oversight responsibility.

LB 1005 deals with the PRB licensing process for large power plants over 250,000 kilowatts. Many utilities in Nebraska have power plants, but only OPPD and NPPD have large power plants. Large plants are very expensive and (since they are large) must be built prior to need by a single utility. Early building means wasteful duplication, unless there is cooperation. LB 1005 would create a legal presumption of unnecessary duplication for large power plants; this presumption could be rebutted by either (1) a joint application by two or more utilities, or (2) by proof of the single utility's need for the plant; for example, to replace a plant that is being retired.

LB 1005 has clear winners and losers. The management and Board of Directors of both OPPD and of NPPD are the clear losers. The customer/owners are the clear winners.

The industry opposes LB 1005 because OPPD and NPPD do not think it is necessary

for them to lose the ability to do what ever they want. It may seem odd to OPPD and NPPD, but I believe our publicly owned utilities' necessity should be measured by the customer/owners' benefits, not the desires of management for larger organizations to justify their salaries of over \$150,000.

Obviously NPPD and OPPD could be counted upon to oppose LB 1005. Mr. Dirrim said the whole industry opposed LB 1005 since he spoke for the Nebraska Power Association. The NPA does not testify upon legislation unless none of its members object to the testimony. This is not the same as agreeing with the testimony. Mr. Dirrim specifically named those NPA members who agreed with his testimony.

Recall that only OPPD and NPPD have built plants that would be covered by LB 1005. It is illustrative who did and who did not authorize Mr. Dirrim to speak for them. Oddly, the Nebraska Rural Electric Association did. All NREA members are contractually required to buy all power they need from NPPD. The wholesale rate NREA members pay NPPD would drop significantly if NPPD's waste was reduced, yet NPPD's captive customer opposed the bill. In contrast, many municipal utilities are covered by the bill because they own power plants and would be potential co-owners of any future large plant. Notably, the two most innovative Nebraska electric utilities and the two most likely potential beneficiaries of LB 1005, the Lincoln Electric System and Nebraska Municipal Power Pool are NPA members yet they did not authorize Mr. Dirrim to speak for them. LES and NMPP have both inquired about getting a piece of what everyone agrees will be the next large power plant: OPPD's second unit at Nebraska City. LES and NMPP neither openly opposed LB 1005 nor stopped the NPA testimony.

In addition to avoiding waste, LB 1005 encourages rural economic development. Construction and maintenance of large power plants produces a series of boom-bust cycles in the local, rural economy. Since OPPD and NPPD are reluctant to cooperate if they can go it alone, LB 1005 creates an incentive for building multiple, smaller plants. OPPD Board member Fred Ulrich of Louisville agrees multiple, smaller plants would reduce the repeated boom-bust cycles while creating sustained growth with many high quality, permanent jobs in the local, rural economy.

Original construction of a large plant involves a short burst of temporary jobs. Subsequently, regular maintenance activities also cause short bursts of temporary jobs. Most of these temporary jobs go to workers imported from other states, since the local supply of workers is exhausted by the large temporary demand. Multiple, smaller plants yield construction and maintenance work spread out over many seasons and lowers the peak demand for laborers. Both of these mean more jobs for Nebraska workers and a



Headline:
"Compact Reopens Search
For Executive Director"

A 'Pulse' Reject Our Enviro-President, Boyd County Fiasco, And Recycled Newsprint

The following letter was submitted to the World-Herald, but as the Observer went to press had not been printed.

I find it interesting that NASA's report on the ozone layer hole has finally forced President Bush's acknowledgement of 'carping' environmentalist's concern for the protection of the ozone layer. In this election year how will our 'Enviro-President' react to: the Spotted Owl and the Lumber Industry, Global Warming, the Wetlands proposed reclassification, and his pathetic (lack of a) national energy policy?

I think it is about time that an elected official (Exon) finally stated the obvious in regard to the Boyd County fiasco, "I'm not a geologist, but it strikes me: Why would you build a facility like this when you have wetlands in the immediate area?" (Omaha

World-Herald, February 14, 1992, p. 15.)

These gentlemen present an alarming contrast in their "on-the-record" regard to protecting our nation's environment.

Sincerely,
Rick Galusha

P.S. This letter was printed on 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper: when will the World-Herald be?

Editor's note, or rather confession. The Observer is printed on paper that is 10 percent recycled. The outfit that publishes for us says that is the best they can do and they are constantly seeking a source of paper that has a higher recycled content. We understand that no one in the newspaper business uses 100 percent recycled, but some get as high as fifty.

sustained boost for the local economy. The permanent utility jobs come from the ability to schedule maintenance on multiple small plants, so that maintenance becomes a continuous process rather than a every other year burst. Thus, LB 1005 means more and better jobs for Nebraskans. But LB 1005 also means smaller plants and lower prestige in the industry for the utility's CEO, not to mention CEO pay.

In conclusion, either LB 1005 will encourage utility cooperation on expensive

power plants, thus saving money; or LB 1005 will encourage multiple small plants, thus encouraging rural economic development. LB 1005 is both necessary and well thought out. Finally, please, don't be too hard on Mr. Dirrim, he is a lobbyist constrained by what his client considers necessary. So, as the utility owner, what do you consider necessary?

The article above was submitted to the World-Herald, but not printed as the Observer went to press